WHEREAS, Act 437 of 1994 directed the Governor to appoint a Task Force under the Health Care Planning and Oversight Committee for the purpose of conducting a study regarding open-heart surgery and therapeutic cardiac catheterization services for residents of South Carolina counties that are included in the Federal Bureau of Census' Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) of another state; and,

WHEREAS, Act 437 of 1994 directed the Office of Research and Statistical Services of the South Carolina State Budget and Control Board to study facilities providing therapeutic cardiac catheterizations without on-site open-heart surgery services and directed that this study determine if there is a statistically significant difference in patient outcomes at facilities with and without on-site open-heart surgery; and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly expressly provided that the Task Force consider the quality of care available based on physician volume, population trends, and projections of the South Carolina community; and,

WHEREAS, the Task Force was required to submit its findings and recommendations to the Health Care Planning and Oversight Committee no later than January 1, 1995; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of the membership of the Task Force has informed me indicating their belief that had the Office of Research and Statistical Services' analysis been available, it would have been considered in their findings, as submitted in their report of January 1, 1995; and,

WHEREAS, in a study of this nature it is imperative that a statistical analysis of patient outcomes as directly related to quality of care issues be considered; and,

WHEREAS, the January 1, 1995 submission deadline precluded the Task Force's consideration of the Office of Research and Statistical Services' analysis; and,
WHEREAS, the Office of Research and Statistical Services' analysis is not expected to be completed prior to its required completion date of May 25, 1995; and,

WHEREAS, without further action, certain communities in the state will be without the continued availability of therapeutic cardiac catheterization services; and,

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare for the Task Force to consider the findings of the Office of Research and Statistical Services prior to making its own findings and recommendations.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of South Carolina, I hereby direct the Task Force appointed by me pursuant to Act 437 of 1994 be reestablished and reconvene to continue its analysis with respect to therapeutic cardiac catheterization services, specifically taking into consideration the analysis of the Office of Research and Statistical Services and that, as provided in Act 437 of 1994, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control shall not prevent facilities from providing therapeutic cardiac catheterizations if the facility (1) has obtained a Certificate of Need for diagnostic cardiac catheterization before July 10, 1992, and filed to obtain a Certificate of Need for open-heart surgical services before January 1, 1993, and (2) has a written open-heart surgery back-up agreement with a facility that provides and open-heart surgery service located within a thirty minute one way drive.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall be in effect until July 1, 1995, unless extended by Executive Order or legislative enactment.