WHEREAS, it appears that one in five American children now lives apart from one parent; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly one-half of all children born today will spend part of their first eighteen years in a family headed by a single mother; and

WHEREAS, in South Carolina approximately forty percent (40%) of the persons in families with female heads-of-households live below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that child support orders are secured and enforced in a timely manner in order to assist these families in becoming self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, an examination of the problems and issues relating to the establishment and enforcement of child support orders is necessary so that legislative and administrative action may be taken to remedy these deficiencies on a statewide basis thus increasing the likelihood that all South Carolinians achieve the support and self-sufficiency to which they are entitled.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the State Commission on Child Support in compliance with Public Law 98-378, the Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984. The Commission shall function under this authority until January 1, 1986.

The State Commission on Child Support shall be composed of eighteen (18) voting members appointed by the Governor. The membership shall consist of a custodial parent; a noncustodial parent; the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services; a
Family Court Judge; a representative from the Governor's Office, Division of Health and Human Services; a practicing private attorney whose main emphasis is family court law; a representative from the Commission on Women; the director of Court Administration; a representative from the Clerks of Court Association; the executive director of the State Chamber of Commerce; the executive director of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association; the director of the South Carolina Legal Services Association; the Attorney General or his designee; the chairman or designee of the Joint Legislative Committee on Children; the chairman or designee of the House Ways and Means Committee; the chairman or designee of the House Judiciary Committee; the chairman or designee of the Senate Finance Committee; and the chairman or designee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Governor will designate the chairman of the State Commission. The Commission membership shall meet at least bimonthly or as often as deemed necessary to complete its mandates. All matters under consideration shall be by majority vote of the membership present.

The State Commission on Child Support may pull in additional resources from ex-officio, non-voting members as is deemed necessary for completion of its mandates.

The purpose of the State Commission is to examine, investigate, and study the operation of South Carolina's child support system to determine the extent to which the State's system has been successful in securing support and parental involvement for all children, both AFDC and non-AFDC. This shall include but not be limited to such specific problems as:

(1) Visitation for the noncustodial parent, keeping in mind the safety, protection, and best interests of the child;

(2) Establishment of appropriate objective standards of support based on income guidelines, the number of children in both the custodial and noncustodial parents' family and cost of living increases each year. Provisions for medical treatment and insurance should be considered in the development of such guidelines;

(3) Enforcement of interstate obligations;

(4) Additional Federal and State legislation needed to obtain support for all children and for compliance with Public Law 98-378, the Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984; and

(5) Any additional issues that the Commission deems appropriate.
Staffing for the State Commission shall be the responsibility of the Department of Social Services and involve the Governor's Office Division of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General's Office.

The State Commission shall submit its report of findings and recommendations to the Governor by October 1, 1985, for submission to the Secretary of Health and Human Services as required by Federal mandates. Further, the Governor, with the recommendation of the Commission, will determine the need to continue the Commission after January 1, 1986.


RICHARD W. RILEY
Governor

ATTEST:

JOHN T. CAMPBELL
Secretary of State