WHEREAS, South Carolina has been a fully participating state in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 since the program's inception, working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice to effect many positive innovations in this State's juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, this Act was amended in 1977 to provide an even greater emphasis on the removal of juveniles held in detention in adult jails, requiring participating states to achieve total jail removal by December 8, 1988; and

WHEREAS, the substantial progress South Carolina has made towards this goal over the last ten years has greatly improved the conditions for juveniles who are accused of committing crimes against the State; and
WHEREAS, it is imperative that South Carolina make an unequivocal commitment within available fiscal resources to attempt to meet the challenge of total jail removal in a manner that is acceptable to this State's executive, legislative, and judicial leadership so that a more appropriate system of responding to juvenile delinquency will be available throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the State's eligibility to continue participating in this important Federal program is dependent upon our ability to make further progress toward completing the jail removal effort we have successfully initiated; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Executive, I firmly believe in the concept that the proper response of government to the criminal offenses of troubled youth is not to place them in custody with adult offenders but, rather, to utilize a cost-effective approach which insures personal accountability for their offenses while avoiding exposure to the traditional criminal process which teaches many juveniles negative values that often lead to a lifetime of criminal behavior;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare that jail removal is a critical priority of this State and direct appropriate State agencies and the Office of Criminal Justice Programs to harmoniously work towards compliance with the amended Act by initiating the following actions:

1) revise the detention screening procedure to insure that inappropriate custodial detentions are not caused by unguided discretion of screening authorities;

2) develop and conduct a training program for all detention
screening personnel to enhance the quality of the screening process; and,

3) develop acceptable cost-effective alternatives for holding juveniles in local adult jails which provide the requisite degree of public safety without encouraging an increase in the number of unnecessary detentions.

I further declare that it is a violation of the public policy of this State to unnecessarily hold a juvenile in an adult jail in violation of State or federal law.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina, at Columbia, South Carolina, this 19th day of August, 1988.

CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
Governor

ATTEST:

JOHN T. CAMPBELL
Secretary of State