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No.07 An Order Establishing the Governor's Children's Cabinet

Phil Bredesen

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STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 7

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S CHILDREN'S CABINET

WHEREAS, the children of Tennessee represent this state's greatest asset; and

WHEREAS, one of state government's highest priorities is to provide needed services and opportunities to our state's children; and

WHEREAS, the future success of our state hinges on our ability to ensure that our children are equipped with the tools and opportunities necessary to enable them to mature into well-balanced, healthy and productive members of our society; and

WHEREAS, this administration fully recognizes its unique position to effectuate positive changes in the lives of this state's children; and

WHEREAS, the work of many departments and agencies of state government and many agencies and organizations outside of state government play vital roles in promoting the welfare of Tennessee's children, and

WHEREAS, there is currently no centralized organization to coordinate and focus the work of those departments, agencies and organizations; and

WHEREAS, meeting our obligation to provide for the future of the children of the State of Tennessee demands that we better coordinate our efforts both within and outside of state government.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and law, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Governor's Children's Cabinet is hereby established. The Children's Cabinet is charged with coordinating and streamlining the state's efforts to provide needed services to Tennessee's children, both inside and outside of state custody. The Children's Cabinet shall take such action as is necessary to fulfill its charge. In performing its work, the Children's Cabinet shall focus on a broad range of issues and challenges, including but not limited to fighting abuse and neglect, promoting foster care and adoption, and raising public awareness of children's issues.

2. The Children's Cabinet shall have thirteen (13) members, consisting of the following individuals:
 - a. The Governor or his designate;
 - b. The Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services;
 - c. The Commissioner of the Department of Education;
 - d. The Commissioner of the Department of Health;
 - e. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services;
 - f. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities;
 - g. The Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth;
 - h. Six (6) citizens of Tennessee who have demonstrated a strong commitment to and understanding of the challenges and issues affecting Tennessee's children. These citizens shall be selected by the Governor.
3. The Governor or his designate shall serve as the Chairperson of the Children's Cabinet.
4. The Children's Cabinet shall convene for its initial meeting on March 19, 2003. Thereafter, the Children's Cabinet shall meet at such times and places as determined by its Chairperson.
5. The Children's Cabinet shall be attached to the Office of the Governor for administrative purposes.
6. Members of the Children's Cabinet shall receive no compensation for their service on the Cabinet but may be reimbursed for those expenses allowed by the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.
7. All Executive branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the Children's Cabinet and shall provide staff support and any other assistance as requested.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 18th day of March, 2003.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE