



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SEVENTEEN

- WHEREAS,** Children living in single parent households are more likely to be living in poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** Fatherless children are at a significantly greater risk for drug and alcohol abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school; and
- WHEREAS,** The vast majority of homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowans intuitively understand that children need to receive the support and guidance of both parents; and
- WHEREAS,** The absence of one parent from a child's life can place that child at greater risk of health, emotional, educational, and behavioral problems associated with the child's development; and
- WHEREAS,** For most children, the absent parent is the father:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me under the laws and the constitution of the State of Iowa do hereby order the creation of the TASK FORCE FOR RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD.

- I. Purpose. The purpose of the Task Force is to further the understanding of the importance of two parents being actively involved in the lives of a child, with particular emphasis of fathers. The Task Force is charged with the following:
 1. Identify promising best practices that support and engage both parents in the emotional and financial support of their children;
 2. Identify obstacles that impede or prevent the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children;
 3. Raise public awareness of the consequences the absence of the father causes in a child's life;

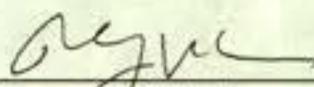
4. Make recommendations for policy and practice both within and without state government that sustain and re-engage fathers in their children's lives; and
5. Report its findings and recommendations to the Governor by March 31, 2002.

II. Organization. The Task Force shall be appointed by the Governor. It is comprised of the following members:

Elaine Szymoniak, Chair	Des Moines
Harry Brod	Cedar Falls
Tom Klaus	Carlisle
Nancylee Ziese	Cedar Rapids
Ana Lopez-Dawson	Reasnor
Odell McGhee	Des Moines
Matt Mohrfeld	Fort Madison
Cindy Schulte	State Center
Mike Carver	Urbandale
Phyllis Mulkey	Mason City
Joseph Cress	Bettendorf
K.D. Burkett	New Providence
Carol Reed	Fort Dodge

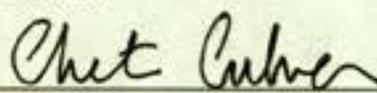
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done in Des Moines, Iowa, this 13th day of February in the year of our Lord Two Thousand One.





 Thomas J. Vilsack
 Governor

ATTEST:



 Chester J. Culver
 Secretary of State