THE STATE OF TEXAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS

October 16, 1981
EXECUTIVE ORDER
WPC - 29

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES

WHEREAS, the leadership of the State of Texas has consistently been committed to achieving and maintaining true equal opportunities in all areas of public and private employment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas adopted an Equal Rights Amendment to the Texas Constitution in 1972; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of the State of Texas has fully endorsed the principle of equal opportunities for prospective and current employees in the public and private sectors regardless of their race, religion, color, sex, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Article 6252-16, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes, in part states that no officer or employee of the State or of a political subdivision of the State when acting or purporting to act in his official capacity may either refuse to employ or discharge a person because of his race, religion, color, sex, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 minorities comprised approximately 29 percent and females approximately 40 percent of Texas' total labor force; and

WHEREAS, there has not been an examination at the state level to determine whether existing laws are discriminatory against women and minorities either by inference or specific intent; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the employment policies of both public and private agencies promote, encourage, and maintain equal opportunity for all Texans; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Texas is the highest elected officer of this State and designated by law as the Chief Planner of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby create and establish the GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES, hereinafter referred to as TASK FORCE.

The TASK FORCE will consist of not more than 25 members appointed by the Governor who shall serve for two-year terms and at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall designate a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from the membership who shall serve in those positions at the pleasure of the Governor.

The TASK FORCE is charged with the following responsibilities:

a. examine in detail state laws and practices governing equal opportunities for women and minorities;

b. identify areas in public and private employment practices which act as barriers to equal opportunities for women and minorities;
c. identify corrective action which can be taken by the executive branch of government or through legislation to eliminate any barriers to equal employment or rights for women and minorities; and

d. perform other duties as may be requested by the Governor.

On or before January 1, 1983, the TASK FORCE shall make a complete written report of its activities and recommendations to the Governor.

The TASK FORCE shall meet regularly at the call of the Chairman. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall, with the consultation of the Governor, establish the agenda for TASK FORCE meetings.

The members of the TASK FORCE shall serve without compensation and shall be responsible for their expenses.

All agencies of State and local governments are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the TASK FORCE in the performance of its duties.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended or rescinded by me.

Given under my hand this 16th day of October, 1981.

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
Governor of Texas

ATTEST:

H. David Herndon
Assistant Secretary of State

Filed in the Office of Secretary of State

OCT 16 1981

Statutory Documents Div.