

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING
THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN IN ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, while women have made extraordinary strides in Illinois and throughout the United States toward economic and social equity over the years, barriers to equity continue to exist; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable to examine the economic, societal and legal barriers that do continue to exist, and to study the best means by which to eliminate them; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to establish a commission to investigate and recommend measures to remove barriers to equity for the women of Illinois;

THEREFORE, I, George Ryan, order the following:

I. RE-ESTABLISHMENT

There shall be re-established the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. to study the issues surrounding women's equity in Illinois, including existing laws and constitutional parameters; pay equity; mentoring and apprenticeship; affordable, high quality day care and elder care; child support; and, retirement and other economic security issues.
- B. to examine and promote utilization of public-private partnerships to raise awareness and develop collaborative solutions;
- C. to make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for statutory and programmatic changes necessary to eliminate barriers to equity for women.

- D. to implement recommendations by working with the Governor's agencies, the General Assembly, the business community and other organizations.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and at least 15 but not more than 25 additional members, all appointed by the Governor.

- B. Members may include, but are not limited to persons who are active in and knowledgeable about the following areas: health and human services, education, business and industry, science and technology, arts and culture, the promotion of social and economic justice, law and government, and volunteerism. At least half of the members shall be women.

- C. Members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

- D. The Commission will be provided assistance and necessary staff support services by the Office of the Governor and the agencies of state government involved in the issues to be addressed by it.

- E. The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 of each year.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Executive Order Number 1 (1999) shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

January 21, 1999