WHEREAS there are growing numbers of homeless families and individuals in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS many persons not yet homeless face the risk of becoming homeless; and

WHEREAS natural disasters, adverse weather conditions, fires and other events can cause abrupt increases in the need for emergency services for those who become homeless; and

WHEREAS Oklahoma is fortunate to have substantial private and public resources available to assist the homeless in meeting their basic needs; and

WHEREAS there are urgent needs to identify service gaps, enhance coordination of resources, and plan expanded efforts to assist the homeless;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority conferred upon the Office of Governor by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of Oklahoma, I hereby order and direct that the Governor’s Task Force on the Homeless hereby is created and established.

The Task Force shall consist of up to thirty-three members appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure. The Task Force shall conclude its work on or before August 31, 1988.

The Governor shall appoint a chairman from the membership of the Task Force.

The Governor’s Task Force on the Homeless shall advise the Governor on issues related to the problems of persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; specifically the Task Force shall:

1) examine the recent experiences of private and public agencies in providing emergency food, shelter, clothing and other support to those who are homeless;

2) identify gaps in emergency services, resource shortages and coordination problems;

3) recommend actions by the public and private sectors which will improve emergency services for the homeless;
4) review Oklahoma's efforts to help vulnerable people obtain adequate housing and avoid becoming homeless;

5) evaluate Oklahoma's plans for using Federal funding under the 1987 Stewart-McKinney Act; and

6) recommend actions which will permanently increase the availability and accessibility of housing for those Oklahomans who are vulnerable to dislocation and homelessness.

All previous executive orders or other documents creating a Governor's Task Force on the Homeless or similar body are hereby rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, this 18th day of February 1988.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Henry Belemon

ATTEST:

Damien D. Atkins
Secretary of State