an order establishing a Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Family Support Leadership Team

WHEREAS, all the children of New Hampshire deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment where basic needs are met and they have an opportunity to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, families are the most critical resource for children, and our combined efforts are needed to support and empower the family unit; and

WHEREAS, the Division for Children and Youth Services' child abuse and neglect reports have increased dramatically over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be prevented with comprehensive education and support programs for children and families; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, while declaring child abuse a national emergency, has recommended increased efforts in the area of community-based prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Division for Children and Youth Services has recently published a Blueprint for Action which focuses on the need for prevention activities; and

WHEREAS, formation of a State Leadership Team, will coordinate prevention efforts and assist communities in the development of local prevention councils;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDD GREGG, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby establish an eighteen member Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Leadership Team. The purpose of the Leadership Team will be:

- to assist communities in establishing local child abuse and neglect prevention councils,
- to provide education on the importance of prevention efforts,
- to advocate for needed community-based prevention programs,
- to provide information to communities regarding available funding resources for child abuse and neglect prevention activities, and
- to support and facilitate inter-agency cooperation regarding child abuse and neglect prevention efforts.

The Leadership Team shall establish concrete goals each year, and will file an annual report with the Governor by December 1 on progress toward meeting its goals.

This Order shall take effect on the date hereof.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 9th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two.