STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2011-11

WHEREAS, Infant mortality is the gold standard for measuring the health of a population; and,

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, 113,517 babies have been born in South Dakota and 794 of them died before their first birthday – an average of 79 deaths each year; and,

WHEREAS, South Dakota's infant mortality rate is higher than the rates of the surrounding states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Montana; and,

WHEREAS, While South Dakota saw dramatic improvements from the 1960s to the 1990s, over the past decade the state's infant mortality rate has exhibited a worsening trend; and,

WHEREAS, In the last several years, infant mortality among Native Americans in South Dakota has improved but is still the highest among the states; and,

WHEREAS, It is a priority for South Dakota to improve birth outcomes and help more South Dakota infants reach their first birthdays; and,

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. The name of the task force is the Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality.

Section 2. Up to thirty members will be appointed to accomplish the goals of the task force. Membership may include representatives from physicians, nurses, hospitals, medical school, Indian Health Services, tribal health, community health, and state agencies.

Section 3. The Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality shall study and make recommendations for improving birth outcomes and reducing infant mortality in South Dakota.

Section 4. The Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality shall report its recommendations to the Governor by December 15, 2011.

Section 5. First Lady Linda Daugaard will serve as the chair for the Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality. The task force shall be administered by the Department of Health.

Section 6. The Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality shall dissolve and cease to exist upon completion of the report to the Governor.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this Twelfth day of May, 2011.

Dennis Daugaard, Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State