

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 22-05

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

WHEREAS: In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission of the Status of Women to study major aspects of women's activities, which resulted in an action program of how to address barriers of entry to the workforce and how to remove discrimination against women by encouraging states to form its own commissions; and

WHEREAS: In 1964, Governor Orval Faubus established Arkansas's first women's commission focusing on the social, political, and economic status of women; and

WHEREAS: Following the 1964 commission, Governor Winthrop Rockefeller established another women's commission focusing on state employment laws and differences in legal treatment between men and women; and

WHEREAS: In 1973, Governor Dale Bumpers reinstated the commission with a focus on finding ways by which women could become larger participants in Arkansas's economic, political, and social institutions; and

WHEREAS: In 1975, Governor David Pryor instituted the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women which focused, in part, on the implementation of Title IX and the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS: Since that time, no other Commission on the Status of Women has existed in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Women are a vital part of Arkansas's rich history and are fundamental to the economic, political, and social prosperity of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Research is needed to analyze the role Arkansas women play within the labor market and the economy to help better direct policies and lawmaking;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

- (1) There is hereby created the Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women, an investigative and advisory body of the Governor.
- (2) The Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women shall be composed of members appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Alison Williams shall be the chair of the commission. The commission shall be composed of:
 - a) Alison Williams;
 - b) Marie Holder;
 - c) Dr. Charisse Childers;
 - d) Tamika Edwards;
 - e) Gayatri Agnew;
 - f) Kim Lane;
 - g) Mellie Bridewell;
 - h) Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch;
 - i) Kathy Loyd;
 - j) Beverly Morrow;
 - k) Dr. Veronikha Salazar;
 - l) Heather Larkin;
 - m) Dr. Todd Shields;

- n) Naija White;
- o) A current or former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives;
- p) A current or former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives designated by the Minority Leader of the Arkansas House of Representatives;
- q) A current or former member of the Arkansas Senate designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Arkansas Senate;
- r) A current or former member of the Arkansas Senate designated by the Minority Leader of the Arkansas Senate; and
- s) Additional members as the Governor deems necessary.

(3) The members of the commission shall have the following duties:

- a) Study and analyze labor force participation of Arkansas women, including single mothers, and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- b) Study and analyze labor force participation of Arkansas women in emerging and high demand career paths, including but not limited to science, technology, engineering and math fields and entrepreneurship;
- c) Study and analyze barriers of entry into labor force participation for Arkansas women, including single mothers, including but not limited to the economic impact of child care;
- d) Make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly regarding ways to eliminate barriers to labor force participation;
- e) Make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly regarding how past successes of women in Arkansas can be built upon and continued for future generations;
- f) Provide information to the Governor and General Assembly regarding an overview of the Arkansas childcare economy;
- g) Consider assigning subcommittees with directions to consider the topics outlined above and report back to the Commission with recommendations to be considered;
- h) Submit a final report of the Commission's findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2022;
- i) The work of the Commission shall be concluded upon submission of the final report and a public presentation discussing the findings.

(4) The Governor's Office may provide staff and other personnel to support the work of the Commission.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed the 17th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2022.


Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary of State