



Proclamation

WHEREAS: The Citizen's Coalition on Permanence for Children and the Organization for a United Response (OURS), both organizations of concerned Minnesotans and adoptive and foster parents, recognize the right of every child to grow up in a secure, loving family; and

WHEREAS: Nearly one third of the 700,000 children in foster care in this country will know permanence only through adoption, and many of these children are school-aged, may have physical or mental disabilities, may be of minority heritage, or must be placed with brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 6000 Minnesota children are in foster care, nearly 1000 of whom are legally free for adoption, and 41 percent of those legally free have had parental rights terminated more than five years; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Public Welfare estimates annual foster care maintenance costs to exceed \$62,000,000, and removing even five percent of the children now in care into adoption or back to their family of birth would save \$3.25 million per year; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's subsidized adoption and adoption exchange legislation are viewed as national models of cost effective programs for children, and the state legislature is committed to full implementation of Public Law 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of November 20 through November 26, 1983, to be

ADOPTION WEEK

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
DEC 2 1983

Joan Anderson Shouse
Secretary of State
34894

in Minnesota.

FURTHER, I encourage support for cost-effective programs such as preventive services, periodic reviews with full citizen participation, exchange and photolisting, and adoption subsidy, which have worked effectively to move Minnesota's waiting children into permanency so that all children may grow up with stability, love, and a sense of belonging.

Joan Anderson Shouse
Rudy Perpich

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this fifteenth day of November in the year 1983.

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