THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE	))))	**AMENDED ORDER** NO. 25700-B- 451

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court recognizes that the safety, permanency and well-being of children under court supervision is paramount;

WHEREAS, the judiciary seeks to provide all children in foster care with safe, permanent families in which their physical, emotional, and social needs are met;

WHEREAS, systemic improvements are needed to meet the needs of children in foster care and in the child welfare system;

WHEREAS, the needed systemic improvements can best be achieved through collaboration between the courts and child welfare partners;

WHEREAS, institutionalization of this collaboration will assure that systemic improvements are sought and achieved beyond the terms of office of individual members of the judiciary, agency directors and elected officials;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

That a Commission on Children in Foster Care be established to monitor and report on the extent to which child welfare programs and courts are responsive to the needs of the children in their joint care; to make recommendations for systemic improvements; and to broaden public awareness of and support for meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families, including provision of sufficient mental health, health care, education, and other services;

That the Commission shall be co-chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, to be designated by the Chief Justice, and by the Assistant Secretary Department of Social and Health

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
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BY C.J. MERRITT
CLERK

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Services Children's Administration;

That the Commission shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Chief Justice:

Attorney General of the State of Washington,
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
President-Judge of the Superior Court Judges' Association,
Executive Director of Washington State CASA,
Executive Director of Foster Parents Association of Washington State,
Chief Judge of the Northwest Intertribal Court System,
Chair of the House Children and Family Services Committee,
Chair of the Senate Children Services and Corrections Committee, and,
Director of the Office of Public Defense;

That the Commission shall file an annual report with the Washington State Supreme Court, recommending appropriate action to serve and meet the needs of children in foster care and in the child welfare system.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 3rd day of February 2005.

Alexander, C.J.

Chambers, J.

Madsen, J.

Owens, J.

Sanders, J.

Fairhurst, J.

Bridge J.

J M Johnson J