Executive Order 2008-03

Development of a 21st Century Health Care Workforce Plan for Arizona

WHEREAS, the availability of quality health care, including the assurance of an adequate supply of health care providers, is vital to the health and well-being of all Arizonans; and

WHEREAS, health care is a driving sector of Arizona's economy, with a high and growing demand for knowledgeable and skilled professionals who will continuously improve patient care; and

WHEREAS, there is both a shortage and an inequitable distribution of health care professionals in the State of Arizona compared with the State's demands; and

WHEREAS, to meet our growing demand, Arizona's educational systems must attract, educate, and train more students who are prepared to work in 21st Century health care professions; and

WHEREAS, Arizona must have a comprehensive statewide plan to coordinate efforts to meet health care demands across the spectrum of care delivered;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State, hereby order as follows:

1. The Arizona Department of Commerce shall lead and coordinate a collaborative public-private effort to develop a health care workforce plan designed to meet the needs of 21st Century Arizona. The plan shall review relevant data on the status of Arizona's health care workforce, assess the State's needs, and establish benchmarks, including short-term and long-term goals.

2. The plan shall include a strategy for strengthening, over a multi-year period, the alignment of Arizona's educational and training infrastructure, leveraging the services and resources that are, or could be, available through Arizona state agencies and professional licensing boards, and proposing innovative strategies for the public and private sectors to encourage effective health care workforce development.

3. The plan shall include recommendations to improve the equitable distribution of health care professionals across geographic regions and particular service areas, and shall coordinate and enhance, rather than duplicate, efforts that have already been initiated.

4. In formulating the plan, the Arizona Department of Commerce shall aggressively seek community input and may form work groups that include health care providers, educational and academic leaders, consumers, health care industry leaders, professional licensing board directors, philanthropic leaders, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Any such work groups should concentrate on specific types of

professionals, including primary care and specialist physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, allied health professionals, mental health and long-term care professionals, providers who work with children and adults with special health care needs, and other providers.

5. The Arizona Department of Commerce shall submit a preliminary report to the Governor no later than October 15, 2008. This initial report shall include a recommended framework and timeline for the development of a comprehensive workforce plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this ___ day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE