The State of Maryland

Executive Department

ORDER

OF THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

No. 20-03-31-02

DETERMINING THAT DISABILITY SERVICES PERSONNEL ARE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS NECESSARY FOR MARYLAND'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, A state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency continue to exist;

WHEREAS, On March 30, 2020, in an effort to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 with Maryland, emergency Order No. 20-03-30-01 was issued and closed all nonessential businesses in Maryland;

WHEREAS, People with disabilities require critical services during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency;

WHEREAS, The provision of such disability services is essential business, and workers must be permitted to travel to provide them;

WHEREAS, Maryland faces a critical staffing shortage of workers providing such services to people with disabilities during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency;

WHEREAS, Such workers are health care providers who must be temporarily exempted from certain leave benefits to ensure they are available to protect the health of Maryland citizens with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Such workers are commended for their sacrifice and commitment to serving and protecting the health of people with disabilities during this state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN

THE STATE, DO HEREBY ORDER:

I. Definitions.

a. "People with disabilities" mean people:

i. who are blind, deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing;

ii. with disabilities that are physical, developmental, or intellectual;

iii. with substance use disorders; or

iv. with mental illness.

b. "Disability services" mean the provision to people with disabilities of:

i. Food, shelter, and other necessities of life;

ii. Interpreting services;

iii. Social services; or

iv. Care, support, or other services essential to maintaining people with disabilities in their homes, residences, and communities.

II. Employees and volunteers of companies, businesses, organizations, governments, or nonprofits performing disability services are health care providers who:

a. Are necessary for the State's response to COVID-19;

b. Perform essential business that does not require closure pursuant to Order No. 20-03-30-01; and

c. May travel:

i. Between their homes and such businesses and organizations; and

ii. For the purposes of performing disability services, to and from a person's home or residential facility or shelter.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor