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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ORDER EXTENDING THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ALL NON-EMERGENCY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

COVID-19 Order No. 27

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, in response to the pandemic, on March 18, 2020, I issued an Order requiring all child care programs in the Commonwealth to suspend normal operations by the end of the day on March 22, 2020, and not to re-open for normal operations before Monday, April 6, 2020, and further authorizing the Department of Early Education and Care to establish emergency child care programs;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, I issued an Order extending the closure of child care programs for normal operations and providing that such programs would not be permitted to re-open before May 4, 2020, with the exception of those authorized by the Department of Early Education and Care to continue operation as emergency programs;

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise dramatically in the Commonwealth. As of April 20, 2020, the Department of Public Health had reported 39,643 cases of COVID-19, including 1,809 deaths, with all counties across the Commonwealth affected;

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority

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over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but not limited to authority over assemblages to protect the health and safety of persons, over educational facilities that are supported in whole or in part by public funds, and over variances of the terms and conditions of licenses issued by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies;

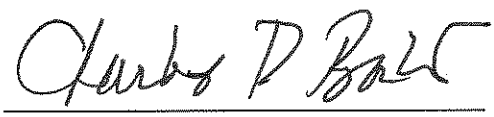
NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby Order the following:

All licensed, approved, or exempt child care programs in the Commonwealth shall remain closed and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, June 29, 2020, unless specifically authorized by the Department of Early Education and Care to continue operations as emergency programs. This directive supersedes the provision of the March 25, 2020 Order establishing an earlier date for re-opening.

The Department of Public Health and the Department of Early Education and Care, along with any board of health or authorized agent pursuant to G.L. c. 111, § 30, shall enforce this Order. In addition, I hereby direct the Commissioner of Public Health to act under the authority of G.L. c. 17, § 2A to supplement the terms of this Order in the event she determines additional measures are required to ensure that the terms of this Order are observed. Violation of the terms of this Order may result in penalties pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or further extended.

Given in Boston at 11:15 AM this 21st day of April, two thousand and twenty



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts