The State of Maryland

Executive Department

ORDER
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

NO. 20-03-30-02

WAIVING FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

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, The spread of COVID-19 within the state may cause the parents or guardians of individuals enrolled in the Maryland Children's Health Program ("MCHP") significant financial hardship;

WHEREAS, The MCHP is needed to respond to the medical consequences of the catastrophic health emergency, requiring control of the price of enrollment;

WHEREAS, The health, safety, and welfare of MCHP participants, as well as of other Maryland residents generally, would be endangered if MCHP participants were unenrolled because of an inability to pay a family contribution;

WHEREAS, It is necessary in order to protect the public health, wealth, and safety to suspend the effect of State statutes requiring parents or guardians of MCHP eligible individuals to agree to pay a family contribution premium to enroll and participate in the MCHP;

WHEREAS, On March 18, 2020, the President of the United States signed into law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which, to provide additional resources necessitated by the national public health emergency, makes federal funds available to states for medical assistance programs provided they not terminate enrollment for failure to pay required premiums; and

WHEREAS, Such federal funds are needed to support the health care of medical assistance recipients during the state of emergency;

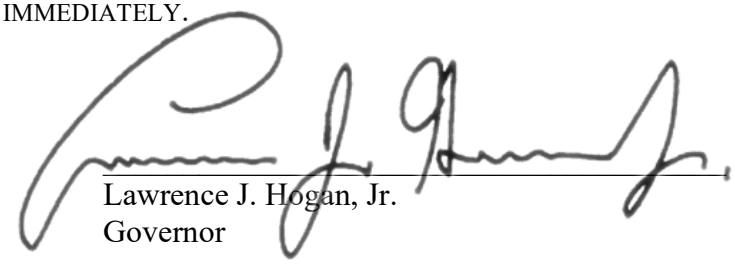
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE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

I. The Secretary of Health may suspend the effect of § 15-301.1 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code ("HG") to waive the requirement that a parent or guardian of an eligible individual agree to, during a month in which the public health emergency declared by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services remains in effect, pay a family contribution to enroll and participate in a Maryland Children's Health Program premium plan.

II. This Order remains effective until the state of emergency has been terminated and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

III. The effect of any statute, rule, or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision, including HG § 15-301.1, that is inconsistent with this Order is hereby suspended.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 30TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor