STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9O

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – HIRING FLEXIBILITY FOR SHORT-TERM SUBSITUTE TEACHERS, ALCOHOL SALES DURING CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS, RESUMPTION OF CERTAIN JUDICIAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall remain in effect until February 9, 2021, unless earlier terminated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued eighty-two (82) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (the "COVID-19 Orders"); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including limitation on the size of gatherings, maintaining a safe distance from others, and wearing masks or face coverings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused unanticipated health effects that are not well understood by the medical community, no vaccine or effective treatment for COVID-19 has been approved or made available for wide distribution, residents, businesses, and government agencies face new and

unanticipated economic, fiscal, and operational challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in recent weeks, COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death rates have increased in Connecticut, surrounding states, and throughout the country, reinforcing the need for continued protective measures to limit transmission of the coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, with proper protective measures in place, in-person learning provides the best environment for educating our students, and attending school in person provides children with meaningful access to necessary supports for mental health and wellness as well as access to nutrition, shelter and socialization; and

WHEREAS, the increased prevalence of COVID-19 infections throughout the state and the resulting staffing challenges for schools have increased the need for short-term substitute teachers and reduced the time available to keep classrooms staffed without undue interruption of in-person learning; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-145 of the Connecticut General Statutes and associated regulations impose certain limitations on the hiring of short-term substitute teachers that provide insufficient flexibility in approval requirements to ensure adequate and timely classroom staffing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many charitable organizations raise the majority of their funding through large in-person events where the sale of alcoholic liquor is essential to the ability to raise funds; and

WHEREAS, while limitations on gathering sizes and social distancing requirements restrict the ability of charitable organizations to hold in-person fundraising events, permitting alternative means of selling alcoholic liquor by such organizations can allow their fundraising to proceed in compliance with critical public health protective measures; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2, dated March 19, 2020, suspended all statutory (1) location or venue requirements; (2) time requirements, statutes of limitation or other limitations or deadlines relating to service of process, court proceedings or court filings; and (3) all time requirements or deadlines related to the Supreme, Appellate and Superior courts or their judicial officials to issue notices, hold court, hear matters and/or render decisions; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Nos. 7YY, Section 1, 7LLL, Section 1, and 7OOO, Section 4 amended Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2 to allow the resumption of various requirements or deadlines related to certain cases or matters in the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 9A, Section 1, dated September 8, 2020, reissued and extended all executive orders issued pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 (COVID-19 Orders) that were unexpired and in effect as of that date of that order to expire on November 9, 2020, and Executive

Order No. 9L, Section 1, dated November 9, 2020, extended all unexpired COVID-19 orders through February 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Chief Court Administrator on behalf of the Chief Justice, I have determined that the Judicial Branch may safely resume certain additional court operations and reinstate certain time requirements and deadlines necessary for such resumption; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch intends to issue guidance related to this order in conjunction with its publication;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, and pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 and the new public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on September 1, 2020, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Flexibility in Hiring Short-term Substitute Teachers.** Section 10-145 of the Connecticut General Statutes and any associated regulations, rules, and policies regarding the employment of substitute teachers who do not hold a bachelor's degree are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Education to temporarily waive or modify any requirements, including but not limited to the approval process, contained therein and establish binding rules to implement this order. Such rules shall not be included in the definition set forth in Section 4-166 (16) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

2. **Sale of Alcoholic Liquor at Virtual Events by Charitable Organizations Permitted.** Section 30-37b of the Connecticut General Statutes, is modified to authorize the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to allow charitable organizations to engage in the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for off-premise consumption if such alcoholic liquor is in its original sealed container as received from a licensed wholesaler or retailer, and such retail sales are in furtherance of fundraising for the charity's charitable purpose. Such retail sales need not occur during the hours required by Section 30-91(a), but the consumer may pick up the product only during those hours. The Commissioner may issue such implementing orders as she deems necessary.

3. **Resumption of Requirements and Deadlines Related to Supreme and Appellate Court Operations and Related to Offers of Compromise.** Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2, dated March 9, 2020, and extended by Executive Order No. 9L, Section 1, dated November 9, 2020, is hereby amended to provide that the suspension of the following requirements or deadlines shall expire upon a schedule to be determined by the Chief Court Administrator in consultation with the Chief Justice, but not later than December 15, 2020:

(1) as to the Supreme or Appellate Court only, all statutory time requirements, statutes of limitations or deadlines, including those governing Superior Court filings that affect Supreme or Appellate Court matters, relating to service of process, court proceedings or court filings;
(2) all statutory requirements or deadlines, including those governing Superior Court filings, related to the Supreme Court or the Appellate Court or their officials to issue notices, hold court, hear matters and/or render decisions; and
(3) all time requirements related to offers of compromise as set forth in General Statutes Sections §§ 52-192a and 52-193 through 52-195.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the existing renewed and newly declared civil preparedness and public health emergencies, unless earlier modified or terminated by me.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st day of December, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State