STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1503

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi continues to constitute a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, as of June 28, 2020 there were 26,567 positive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Mississippi, with 1,059 of those cases having resulted in death; and

WHEREAS, it is essential and urgent to ensure that Mississippi has adequate bed capacity, equipment, supplies, and healthcare providers to treat patients afflicted with COVID-19, as well as patients afflicted with other non-COVID conditions; and

WHEREAS, while a majority of jurisdictions throughout Mississippi show a stabilized rate of COVID-19 cases, cases continue to be diagnosed; and with the continued robust testing system in place to detect increases in the rate of infection, it is essential to ensure that the healthcare system remains capable of treating persons with the COVID-19 and has the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing healthcare need to maintain capacity exists requiring the continuation of measures to ensure the state of Mississippi has sufficient capacity and resources of Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities to diagnose, treat and care for those diagnosed with COVID-19, many of whom may require emergency or intensive care; and

WHEREAS, with the continued number of cases diagnosed, the number of patients in an ICU among other healthcare factors, for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of Mississippi there is a continued and compelling need to maintain and maximize participation of Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities in treating COVID-19 patients to ensure that Mississippians have access to treatment when needed; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1471 to provide certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until May 15, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1485 extending certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until May 31, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1494 further extending certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until June 15, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1497 further extending certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until July 1, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

WHEREAS, although Mississippi law provides some protections for Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities assisting in the effort to combat COVID-19, it is necessary to continue to maintain additional protections against liability established in Executive Order 1471, as extended by Executive Orders 1485, 1494 and 1497 for an additional period of time during which Mississippi's healthcare system must sustain the level of care during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure Mississippi's healthcare system has adequate capacity to provide care to all who need it.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, and in consultation with the State Health Officer, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Executive Order 1471 is amended to extend its duration to continue in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m. July 31, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

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

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 30th day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE