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D 2020 287

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Amending and Extending Executive Orders D 2020 230 and D 2020 262 Directing the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to Make One-Time Direct Stimulus Payments to Qualifying Individuals Experiencing Economic Hardships Caused by COVID-19 in Colorado

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1106, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending and extending Executive Orders D 2020 230 and D 2020 262 directing the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to make one-time direct stimulus payments to qualifying individuals experiencing economic hardships caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and we have evidence of widespread community transmission throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, and D 2020 284. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are significant, and threaten to undermine the economic stability of many Coloradans and local businesses. The risk of contamination posed by COVID-19 necessitated closure of multiple businesses. Employers and employees in virtually all sectors of the economy have been hard hit. While we have seen indications that our efforts to "flatten the curve" are working, transmission of the virus continues to threaten Coloradans' way of life and livelihoods.

Since March 15, 2020, hundreds of thousands of Coloradans have filed for and received unemployment insurance benefits to help pay for groceries, rent, and utilities to weather the hardships caused by COVID-19. As of August 2020, employment rates among workers making less than $27,000 decreased by 15% compared to January 2020, while workers making more than $60,000 have almost returned to their January 2020 employment rates. Many Coloradans continue to rely on unemployment insurance to meet their basic needs.

On March 20, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 012, which mobilized State resources to improve and expedite services available to individuals applying for unemployment insurance benefits to promote the economic stability of the State. Subsequently, I issued Executive Orders D 2020 031, D 2020 051, and D 2020 088, which extended the availability of the resources issued in Executive Order D 2020 012. On June 13, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 100, which further extended these resources to improve and expedite unemployment insurance benefits. Executive Order D 2020 100 was extended by Executive Orders D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, D 2020 215, D 2020 242, and D 2020 273.

On October 30, 2020, I issued Executive Order Executive Order D 2020 230 to allow CDLE to make one-time direct stimulus payments through the unemployment insurance system to qualifying individuals experiencing economic hardships caused by COVID-19 in Colorado. On November 26, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 262, extending Executive Order D 2020 230 for thirty (30) days. This Executive Order amends and extends Executive Orders D 2020 230 and D 2020 262.

II. Amendment

Section II of Executive Order D 2020 230, as extended by Executive Order, D 2020 262, is amended as follows:

1. Section II.F. is amended to read as follows:

   I further encumber one hundred sixty-eight million dollars ($168,000,000) from the Disaster Emergency Fund, established in C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(2)(a), made available to CDLE, for one-time direct stimulus payments transferred from the Disaster Emergency Fund to all qualifying individuals experiencing economic hardships caused by COVID-19 in Colorado. These funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund. These funds shall remain available for this purpose until February 28, 2021.

II. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 230, as extended by Executive Order D 2020 262 and this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from December 25, 2020, unless amended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II.F. of Executive Order D 2020 230, as extended, shall remain available for the described purposes until February 28, 2010. In

all other respects, Executive Order D 2020 230, as extended by Executive Order D 2020 262, shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-fifth day of December, 2020.

Jared Polis
Governor