STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7RR

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – REFUNDS BY DEEP, BIRTH-TO-THREE COVERAGE, WAIVER OF GUEST BOOK REQUIREMENT

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued forty-four (44) 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; 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, 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 cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; 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, public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, upon a proclamation that a civil preparedness emergency exists, section 28-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the modification or suspension in whole or in part by executive order of any statute or regulation or requirement or part thereof that conflicts with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of public health; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from large events, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has determined that is necessary to cancel certain bookings for camping and for special events scheduled to take place in state parks, including, but not limited to, weddings and receptions, for which residents have placed deposits or made payments; and

WHEREAS, cancellation of school classes to reduce COVID-19 transmission and compliance with other protective measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may delay face-to-face assessments for children who need them to assess eligibility for additional services or delay observations to determine eligibility of young children for Part B IDEA Services; and

WHEREAS, continuing remote early intervention services and the coverage of these services for such children beyond the age where they would normally lose eligibility will limit in-person contact related to such assessments and observations, and thereby reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, during the current health pandemic, businesses are being encouraged to minimize unnecessary points of shared contact by, for example, using contactless payment systems, paper towel dispensers and appliances wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, Section 30-23a of the Connecticut General Statutes requires a club, nonprofit club or golf country club to maintain a guest book that includes information about a member's guest and is signed by the member, which creates a situation where a guest book and pen are potentially being touched by a club employee, the member's guest and the member, thereby increasing the risk of transmission of COVID-19;

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, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Authority for DEEP to Issue Rental Refunds.** The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may reimburse funds collected from rent paid by any person for use of state park property for camping or any special event of limited duration including, but not limited to, weddings and receptions, pursuant to Sections 23-15b, 23-15e, 23-16 and 23-16a of the Connecticut General Statutes, where such camping or special event is scheduled to be held during the COVID-19 pandemic and is subject to cancellation by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection as a result of the public health emergency.

2. **Modification of Age Limit for Early Intervention Coverage.** Sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a of the Connecticut General Statutes, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies are modified to require that the individual and group health insurance policies referenced in such sections shall continue to provide coverage for medically necessary remote early intervention services by qualified personnel after a covered child's third birthday when such child continues to receive such services in accordance with Executive Order No. 7DD, Section 10.

3. **Waiver of Requirement for Guest Books at Private Clubs.** Section 30-23a is Connecticut General Statutes is suspended, and therefore, nonprofit clubs and golf country clubs shall not be required to maintain a guest book with information about member's guests during public health and civil preparedness emergency.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 21st day of May, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State