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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ORDER PROVIDING ACCELERATED LICENSING OF PHYSICIANS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

COVID-19 Order No. 23

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of April 8, 2020, the Department of Public Health had reported 16,790 cases of COVID-19, including 433 deaths, with all counties in the Commonwealth affected;

WHEREAS, the escalating COVID-19 public health emergency will produce an extraordinary demand on the Commonwealth's health care system that will require a degree of flexibility and responsiveness in the staffing of medical facilities that regular practices in the licensing of health care professionals cannot accommodate; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including the authority to modify of the terms and conditions of licenses, permits, or certificates of registration issued by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies or political subdivisions;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

The Board of Registration in Medicine ("Board") shall immediately adopt the following policy to provide for the expedited licensure of physicians who are graduates of International Medical Schools and who are currently practicing in a United States jurisdiction under a limited license:

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All graduates of International Medical Schools who have satisfactorily completed at least two years of postgraduate medical training in a program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association or in an accredited Canadian program shall be eligible for licensure. The Board shall review and approve such applications by expedited process.

The Board of Registration in Medicine is directed to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order. The Board shall notify the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health when it becomes aware of any individual instance where, due to special concerns, application of this Order may be contrary to the public interest. The Commissioner shall in her sole discretion determine whether to apply or suspend the terms of this Order in any such individual instance.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the state of emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 12:05 PM this 9th day of March, two thousand and twenty

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts