STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7T

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – SAFE LODGING, LIQUOR DELIVERY, ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OTHER MEASURES

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 confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued seventeen (17) 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, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to take aggressive mitigation measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within our State and region and one such measure, as reflected in my prior Executive Order Nos. 7H and 7J, restricting the operations of non-essential businesses, and the Domestic Travel Advisory recently issued by the Centers for Disease Control, is to ensure that people stay home and avoid unnecessary travel or temporary lodging for vacation or leisure purposes; and

WHEREAS, to encourage social distancing and protect public health and safety, my Executive Order Nos. 7D and 7G, closed bars and restaurants to all on-premise service of food and beverages; and

WHEREAS, home delivery of products by additional liquor permittees can reduce the need for customers to leave their homes and thereby increase the effectiveness of efforts to limit transmission of COVID-19, while allowing safe conduct of certain economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program is meant to provide timely financial assistance to small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through a streamlined and easily understandable application process that can be submitted with minimal delay; and

WHEREAS, the existing requirement for a notarized affidavit to certify compliance with certain nondiscrimination provisions of state law may introduce unnecessary delay to the application process and increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 if an applicant is unable to complete the certification through remote notarization; and

WHEREAS, ongoing child care operations are necessary to support the essential workforce, and child care providers must be stabilized through the duration of the emergency to ensure the maintenance of an adequate child care infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services seeks to increase rates paid to various providers, including nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled and residential care homes, over the current rate in effect, by 10% in recognition of the extraordinary costs related to the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, permitting such facilities and homes to obtain a rate rehearing and contest the increased rate would create a significant administrative burden on the Department of Social Services during a time where prioritization of time and resources is critical to protecting public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce administrative burdens and protect the state from increased costs beyond those necessary to pay the temporary rate increase, it is necessary to suspend providers' rights to appeal the overall magnitude and methodology temporary rate increases that are paid in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, certain documents require the in-person services of a Notary Public or Commissioner of the Superior Court and such interactions should be avoided to the maximum extent possible in order to promote social distancing and the mitigation of the spread of the COIVD-19; and

WHEREAS, attendance at public proceedings is likely to increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Chief Court Administrator on behalf of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch, I have determined that there exists a compelling state interest that courts conduct only essential business in order to minimize the spread 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. **Provision of Non-Essential Lodging Prohibited.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes or of any regulation, rule, policy, procedure, charter, or ordinance, the following restrictions shall apply to all hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and short-term residential rentals including those arranged through on-line hosting platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO (collectively, as defined below, "lodgings"). Pursuant to my authority under Section 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and in accordance with the terms of Executive Order No. 7H, and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 28-8(a), this order shall supersede and preempt any local order, rule, or emergency order.

    a. **Lodging Definition.** For the purposes of this order, "lodging" shall mean the provision of overnight accommodations by commercial transaction in any of the following categories:
        i. Bed and breakfast establishments
        ii. Bed and breakfast homes
        iii. Hotels
        iv. Motels
        v. Lodging houses rented for a period of 31 days or fewer
        vi. Professionally managed units rented for a period of 31 days or fewer
        vii. Short-term rentals (including Airbnb, VRBO and similar rental properties) rented for a period of 31 days or fewer
        viii. Resorts
        ix. Inns
        x. Timeshares

    b. **Permissible Lodging.** The provision of lodging shall be permitted only when offered and employed for the following uses:
        i. Housing and accommodation for health care workers, first responders, and other workers who work for an Essential Business pursuant to Executive Order No. 7H and implementing guidance issued by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).
        ii. To the extent not already included in (a), housing and accommodation for out-of-state workers engaged in transportation of materials, logistics, and construction associated with the delivery of health-related services, such as the development of COVID-19 alternative care sites, testing facilities, or research.
        iii. Housing and accommodation for members of vulnerable populations, including but not limited to emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence, and persons returning from incarceration.
        iv. Housing and accommodation for Connecticut residents (i) who are self-isolating or are subject to a quarantine order; and (ii)

families or roommates of such individuals who are self-isolating or are subject to a quarantine order; but (iii) in each case, for no longer than the period required to complete the necessary period of self-isolation or quarantine.

v. Housing and accommodation for individuals receiving long-term, specialized medical care from a physician licensed or located in Connecticut and for accompanying family members.

vi. Housing, accommodation, and shelter when required by extenuating circumstances such as fire or casualty to ensure the care and safety of Connecticut residents and to accommodate other persons unable to return to their own homes due to flight cancellations, border closures, or other direct and material constraints on travel.

vii. Housing and accommodation to the extent necessary for workers engaged in providing or servicing or maintaining lodging for any of the purposes described above.

c. **Other Purposes and Uses for Lodging Prohibited During State of Emergency.** Lodging offered, operated, or employed for purposes other than those listed in subsection (b) above shall not be permitted. Accordingly, the provision and occupancy of lodging for leisure, vacation, and other purposes may not continue. Operators of lodging may, however, continue to provide other, lodging-related services through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or appear at any brick-and-mortar lodging premises.

d. **Existing Lodging Guests.** Persons occupying lodging as of April 2, 2020 may be permitted to remain in their current lodgings through the end of their originally scheduled stay. Lodging may not be extended except for one of the purposes listed in subsection (b) above or if the lodging in question is permissible under this order because it is for a period that exceeds 31 days.

e. **Future Booked Lodging.** For the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified or terminated by me:

i. persons with future reservations or bookings or agreements to occupy lodgings may not exercise those agreements and may not occupy those lodgings; and

ii. operators of lodgings may not provide lodging to persons with future reservations or bookings or agreements to occupy lodgings, unless in each case the lodgings are provided and occupied for one of the purposes listed in section 1 above or if the lodging in question is permissible under this order because it is for a period that exceeds 31 days.

iii. operators of lodgings shall make reasonable efforts to refund any deposits or other payments to persons who cannot exercise bookings or agreements as a result of this order.

2. **Further Clarification of Limits on Restaurants, Bars and Private Clubs**. Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 7G, which addressed sales of alcoholic beverages by certain licensees, is modified to additionally permit holders of the following alcoholic liquor permits to deliver directly to consumers any sealed alcoholic liquor under the same conditions as Executive Order No. 7G permitted for pick-up and off-premise consumption sales: Restaurant, Café, Tavern, Manufacturer Permit, Manufacturer Permit for Beer, Manufacturer Permit for Farm Winery, Manufacturer Permit for Farm Brewery, Manufacturer Permit for a Brew Pub, Manufacturer Permit for Beer and Brew Pub, Manufacturer Permit for a Farm Distillery. In addition, the holder of a Manufacturer Permit for Cider and a Manufacturer Permit for Apple Brandy and Eau-de-vie may be open for the sale of pick-up or delivery of alcoholic liquors as allowed under their permit types and consistent with the requirements set forth in Executive Order 7G for off-premise consumption sales by other manufacturers. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may issue any implementing orders and guidance that she deems necessary to implement this order.

3. **Suspension of Notarization Requirement Related to Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program.** Section 4a-60(c)(2)(C) of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to authorize the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to accept, in place of a notarized affidavit certifying compliance with nondiscrimination laws, a Nondiscrimination Certification in a form prescribed by the Commissioner and signed under penalty of false statement, for the sole purpose of applications to the Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan program for small businesses. Such modification shall apply only to the Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan program.

4. **Flexibility to Maintain Adequate Child Care Infrastructure.** The provisions of General Statutes Sections 10-16n through 10-16u, 10-266p, 10-266q, 10-262u, 10-505, 10-506, 10-509, 17b-749, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 17b-749i, and 17b-749j; and Sections 17b-749-01 through 17b-749-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies regarding child care funding, are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Early Childhood to temporarily waive any requirements contained therein as she deems necessary to maintain a sufficient capacity of child care services or stabilize child care providers during this public health and civil preparedness emergency. The Commissioner may issue any order that she deems necessary to implement this order.

5. **Suspension of Rehearing Rights for Temporary Rate Increases for Certain Healthcare Providers.** Section 17b-238(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, to the extent that it authorizes specified institutions or agencies to request a rehearing on all items of aggrievement, is modified to suspend the right to rehearing only regarding the overall magnitude and methodology of temporary rate increases paid to facilities

in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In all other respects, Section 17b-238(b) shall remain in full force and effect.

6. **Alternative to Affidavits Related to Orders of Protection and Relief.** The requirement in Sections 46b-15 and 46b-16a of the Connecticut General Statutes that an application for an order of protection and relief be accompanied by an affidavit made under oath that includes a statement of the specific facts that form the basis for relief is hereby modified to allow such statement of facts to be made under penalty of false statement pursuant to Section 53a-157b of the Connecticut General Statutes, in lieu of being made under oath, at the option of the applicant. In addition, any other provision of the Connecticut General Statutes that requires an application, affidavit or any other document or paper related to an order of protection and relief be made under oath are hereby modified to allow such application, affidavit, document or paper to be filed under the penalty of false statement pursuant to Section 53a-157b of the Connecticut General Statutes, in lieu of being made under oath, at the option of the applicant.

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

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 2nd day of April, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State