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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ORDER EXTENDING THE REGISTRATIONS OF CERTAIN LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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 March 16, 2020, 197 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Department of Public Health, with 10 of the 14 counties in the Commonwealth impacted;

WHEREAS, the escalating COVID-19 public health emergency will produce an extraordinary demand on the Commonwealth's healthcare 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;

WHEREAS, the practice of telemedicine is necessary to assure continuity of care for students who attend colleges and universities in Massachusetts and who have established provider relationships through their college or university health care systems but are returning to their home States as a result of the COVID-19 emergency; 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:

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(1) **Extension of Registrations:** Any registration held:

a. by a registered nurse, that was issued by the Board of Registration in Nursing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 74;
b. by a licensed practical nurse, that was issued by the Board of Registration in Nursing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 74;
c. by a pharmacist, that was issued by the Board of Registration in Pharmacy pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 24; or
d. by a physician assistant, that was issued by the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 9I

that is in good standing as of the date of this Order and that has expired or will expire during the state of emergency, is hereby extended and shall remain valid until at least 90 days following the termination of the state of emergency.

(2) **Training and Continuing Education:** The Board of Registration in Nursing, the Board of Registration in Pharmacy, and the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants shall waive requirements for completion of training and continuing education for individuals whose licenses are extended pursuant to this Order.

(3) **Authorization to Practice Telemedicine:** During the state of emergency, no Massachusetts board of registration shall prohibit any licensed nurse, social worker, psychologist, or medical doctor in good standing from providing services using telemedicine across State lines to their established patients who during the 2019-2020 academic year have been enrolled in a college or university located in Massachusetts.

(4) For purposes of this Order "in good standing" shall include a registration that is subject to probation or non-disciplinary conditions, but shall not include a license that is revoked, cancelled, surrendered, suspended, or subject to disciplinary restrictions.

The Board of Registration in Nursing, the Board of Registration in Pharmacy, the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants, and the Board of Registration in Medicine are directed to issue guidance, forthwith and subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order. Those Boards shall enforce this Order.

This Order is effective March 17, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the state of emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 2:36 PM this 17th day of March, two thousand and twenty

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts