JAY INSLEE
Governor

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05

20-77

College Bound Program Pledge Waivers

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State of as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued amendatory Proclamations 20-06 through 20-53, 20-55 through 20-67, 20-69 through 20-71, and 20-74 through 20-76, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations, including issuance of Proclamation 20-25 et seq., *Stay Safe – Stay Healthy*; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person, which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health indicates that cases of COVID-19 in Washington State and associated deaths continue to increase, demonstrating the ongoing, present threat of this lethal disease; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the ability of middle and high schools in Washington State to safely provide in-person classes and support services, resulting in most schools providing primarily remote instruction; and

WHEREAS, the College Bound Scholarship Program was established in RCW 28B.118 to encourage Washington students from low-income families to remain in school and aspire to attend college, which to be effective, requires recruitment by school teachers and counselors, a practice most effective when done in person; and

WHEREAS, the College Bound Scholarship Program serves the lowest quarter of our state's households by income; and

WHEREAS, RCW 28B.118.010(3) requires students to sign a pledge containing certain commitments that must be witnessed and sent to the office of student financial assistance, and if this process is not completed during the designated time period, students cannot receive College Bound Scholarship grants when they go to college even if they meet all the other income standards; and

WHEREAS, without in-person recruitment by teachers and counselors, due to COVID-19 health restrictions, completing this process is likely to be overlooked by students, resulting in a reduction in participation in this important program; and

WHEREAS, beginning in March 2020, as schools ceased physical operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, College Bound Scholarship grant sign-up activity dropped significantly in both the 7th and 8th grades; now, as compared to 2019, 8th grade sign-ups are down 20% and 7th grade sign-ups are down almost 68%; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continue to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remain a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under RCW 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05, as amended, remains in effect, and that Proclamation 20-05 is amended to waive and suspend a portion of RCW 28B.118, effective at 12:01 a.m. on December 8, 2020, as provided herein.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this event, I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the DOH, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

FURTHERMORE, based on the above noted situation and under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(1)(g), I also find that strict compliance with RCW 28B.118.010(3) will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action for coping with the COVID-19 State of Emergency in the provision of educational services to Washington State students and that the language of that statutory provision is hereby waived and suspended in its entirety, effective at 12:01 a.m. on December 8, 2020, until 11:59 p.m. on January 07, 2021.

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 2nd day of December, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State