STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7P

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – SAFE HOUSING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

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 sixteen 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, confirmed COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations have increased significantly in recent days, at the same time that residents of areas with high infection rates have arrived in Connecticut, creating a need to enact further mandatory distancing measures to limit the rate of spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the continued operation of health care facilities or institutions, as defined by Section 19a-905 of the Connecticut General Statutes, is critical to the response to the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency; and

WHEREAS, first responders and healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic face increased risk of exposure and infection, and if exposed or infected, may need alternative housing to avoid transmitting the disease to coworkers or family members, and municipalities and agencies who arrange such housing may require federal reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control has recommended that states, especially those with higher rates of growth in the number of infected people, take measures to reduce density within homeless shelters and other congregant housing situations, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is making funding available to reimburse states for certain related expenditures; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health and other members of my leadership team, I have determined that reducing density in congregant housing and providing alternate housing for people experiencing homelessness is necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut may experience a shortage of health care providers, as defined in such statute, because of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the issuance and maintenance by such health care facilities or institutions of identification badges, in complete conformance with Section 19a-905 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for health care providers who provide direct patient care at such facility or institution, may hinder flexible and responsive deployment of healthcare resources during the emergency; and

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. **Authorization to Provide for Non-Congregant Housing for Persons at Risk.** The Commissioner of Public Health, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and commissioners of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Housing are authorized to issue such orders as they deem necessary to provide or arrange non-congregant housing with sufficient physical distancing capacity for people who, from the nature of their existing housing or working environments, are at increased risk of exposure to, infection with, or transmission of COVID-19, and to seek reimbursement for any resulting expenditures from appropriate federal agencies or other sources.

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 28th day of March, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State