STATE OF KANSAS

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH
TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-3232
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-05

Temporarily prohibiting utility and internet disconnects

WHEREAS, securing the health, safety, and economic well-being of residents of the State of Kansas is this Administration's top priority;

WHEREAS, Kansas is facing a crisis, the pandemic and public health emergency of COVID-19, with effects of illness, quarantines, school closures, and temporary closures of businesses resulting in lost wages and financial hardship to Kansas citizens; and;

WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning January 27, 2020, with over 4,000 cases of the illness and over 60 deaths as a result of the illness across the United States;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020;

WHEREAS, a State of Disaster Emergency was proclaimed for the State of Kansas on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act");

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq. and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5), declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Kansas Corporation Commission invoked its emergency authority under K.S.A. 77-536 to suspend all disconnects by utilities under the Commission's authority; and

WHEREAS, this Administration will do whatever it can to assist Kansans in these challenging times, and that includes allowing Kansans to retain the use of utilities to avoid immediate danger to their health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of

Kansas, including the authority granted me by K.S.A. 48-924 and K.S.A. 48-925, in order to mitigate the economic effects of the spread of COVID-19 I hereby direct and order that all Kansas utility providers not under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission temporarily suspend the practice of disconnecting service to Kansas citizens for non-payment. This directive covers all electrical, natural gas, water, and telecommunications utilities as well as internet service providers who provide services to Kansas citizens.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 20-05. It shall become effective on March 17, 2020, at 12:01 p.m. and remain in force until rescinded, until May 1, 2020, or until the statewide State of Disaster Emergency proclaimed on March 12, 2020, relating to COVID-19 expires, whichever is earlier.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BY THE GOVERNOR Laura Kelly

DATED 3.17.2020

FILED
MAR 17 2020
SCOTT SCHWAB
SECRETARY OF STATE

Scott Schwab
Secretary of State

Sandy Tompkins
Assistant Secretary of State