STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7AA

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL NURSING HOME BEDS

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 twenty-six (26) 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 is higher for individuals who are 60 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, the Department of Public Health ("DPH") is implementing a medical surge plan ("Plan") to, in part, expand capacity and slow the spread of COVID-19 in Connecticut longterm care facilities, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 7Y, issued April 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, additional nursing home beds are required to assist in the implementation of DPH's Plan, and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 7Y, for the duration of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 17b-354(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes prohibits the acceptance or approval of requests for additional nursing home beds except under certain conditions, and such prohibition will hinder the ability of DPH to implement its Plan, which is critical to providing

adequate care for residents of longterm care facilities and limiting the spread of transmission 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. **Approval of Temporary Additional Nursing Home Beds for COVID-19 Recovery**. Section 17b-354(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, to the extent that it places a moratorium on the approval of additional nursing home beds by the Commissioner of Social Services, is suspended effective April 13, 2020, but solely with respect to: (i) entities designated by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to serve as Alternate COVID Recovery Facilities, as said term is established and defined pursuant to Executive Order No. 7Y; and (ii) additional nursing home beds as may be required at an existing skilled nursing facility to receive COVID-19 transfers from entities designated by DPH to serve as COVID Recovery Facilities, as said terms are established and defined pursuant to Executive Order No. 7Y. The Department of Social Services shall temporarily certify these nursing home beds in response to COVID-19 and decertify these additional nursing home beds at the end of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency. In all other respects, section 17b-354(a) remains in full force and effect.

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

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 15th day of April, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State