

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TERMINATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARED PURSUANT TO G. L. c. 17, § 2A

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2019, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to General Laws chapter 17, section 2A, declared that a multistate outbreak of severe lung disease associated with the use of vaping products and e-cigarettes constituted an emergency detrimental to the public health; and

WHEREAS, also on September 24, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Health, acting pursuant to authority granted by my emergency declaration and with the approval of the Public Health Council, issued an Order temporarily prohibiting the sale or display of vaping products and e-cigarettes to consumers in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2019, the Executive Director of the Cannabis Control Commission made a determination that vaporizer products pose an immediate threat to the public health and, acting under independent authority of the Commission, issued a Quarantine Order temporarily prohibiting the sale of vaporizer products by licensed Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted and on November 30, 2019 I signed into law Chapter 133 of the Acts of 2019, a comprehensive tobacco and vaping control statute that substantially restricts the availability of nicotine vaping products and e-cigarettes in the Commonwealth and adopts certain other measures designed to protect against the health risks of vaping products and e-cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2019, acting pursuant to authority granted to it by the new law, the Department of Public Health adopted regulations on an emergency basis to implement additional controls on the sale of nicotine vaping products and e-cigarettes and to require retailers to post warnings identifying the dangers these products present in order to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, while the underlying public health concerns associated with the use of vaping products and e-cigarettes and identified in my September 24, 2019 declaration remain, the need for addressing these public health concerns through measures adopted pursuant to General Laws chapter 17, section 2A has abated in view of the intervening actions of the Legislature, the Cannabis Control Commission, and the Department of Public Health;

NOW THEREFORE, I declare that the public health emergency declared on September 24, 2019 is hereby terminated.

Given this 11th day of December, two thousand and nineteen.

CHARLES D. BAKER

Governor