ORDER
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND
No. 20-03-30-02
WAIVING FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE
MARYLAND CHILDREN’S HEALTH PROGRAM

WHEREAS, A state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was
proclaimed on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, 2020, to
tcontrol and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State, and
the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency continue
to exist;

WHEREAS, The spread of COVID-19 within the state may cause the parents or
guardians of individuals enrolled in the Maryland Children’s
Health Program (“MCHP”) significant financial hardship;

WHEREAS, The MCHP is needed to respond to the medical consequences of
the catastrophic health emergency, requiring control of the price of
enrollment;

WHEREAS, The health, safety, and welfare of MCHP participants, as well as of
other Maryland residents generally, would be endangered if MCHP
participants were unenrolled because of an inability to pay a family
contribution;

WHEREAS, It is necessary in order to protect the public health, wealth, and
safety to suspend the effect of State statutes requiring parents or
guardians of MCHP eligible individuals to agree to pay a family
contribution premium to enroll and participate in the MCHP;

WHEREAS, On March 18, 2020, the President of the United States signed into
law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which, to
provide additional resources necessitated by the national public
health emergency, makes federal funds available to states for
medical assistance programs provided they not terminate
enrollment for failure to pay required premiums; and
WHEREAS, Such federal funds are needed to support the health care of medical assistance recipients during the state of emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE,  

I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE STATE, DO HEREBY ORDER:

I. The Secretary of Health may suspend the effect of § 15-301.1 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code (“HG”) to waive the requirement that a parent or guardian of an eligible individual agree to, during a month in which the public health emergency declared by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services remains in effect, pay a family contribution to enroll and participate in a Maryland Children’s Health Program premium plan.

II. This Order remains effective until the state of emergency has been terminated and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

III. The effect of any statute, rule, or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision, including HG § 15-301.1, that is inconsistent with this Order is hereby suspended.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 30TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

[Signature]

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor