

# THE GOVERNOR

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

### Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

June 14, 2019

*Whereas*, on January 10, 2018, I declared a disaster emergency due to the opioid crisis that is ravaging the country, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens;

*Whereas*, my Proclamation of Disaster Emergency dated January 10, 2018, was renewed by Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (1st Amendment) on April 4, 2018, for an additional ninety days. The April 4, 2018, 1st Amendment would have automatically expired by operation of law on July 3, 2018, unless further extended by my official renewal;

*Whereas*, I renewed the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for an additional ninety days by official action on June 28, 2018. The June 28, 2018, Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (2nd Amendment) was set to expire by operation of law on September 26, 2018, unless further extended by my official renewal;

*Whereas*, I renewed the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for an additional ninety days by official action on September 24, 2018. The September 24, 2018, Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (3rd Amendment) was set to expire by operation of law on December 23, 2018, unless further extended by my official renewal;

*Whereas*, I renewed the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for an additional ninety days by official action on December 21, 2018. The December 21, 2018, Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (4th Amendment) was set to expire by operation of law on March 21, 2019, unless further extended by my official renewal;

*Whereas*, I renewed the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for an additional ninety days by official action on March 20, 2019. The March 20, 2019, Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (5th Amendment) is set to expire by operation of law on June 18, 2019, unless further extended by my official renewal;

*Whereas*, the opioid crisis continues to be of such magnitude or severity that emergency action is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected citizens in Pennsylvania;

*Whereas*, the opioid crisis continues to be a public health emergency in Pennsylvania contributing to addiction, overdose emergencies and deaths; and

*Whereas*, investigations by the Opioid Unified Coordination Group indicate that additional resources of the Commonwealth may be needed to mitigate and contend with the magnitude and severity of this continuing and expanding disaster emergency.

*Now Therefore*, pursuant to the provisions of section 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c), I do hereby order and direct as follows:

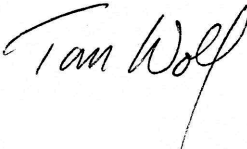
1. The Proclamation of Disaster Emergency of January 10, 2018, renewed by Amendments to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency dated April 4, 2018, June 28, 2018, September 24, 2018, December 21, 2018, and March 20, 2019, is renewed for an additional period of ninety days, and shall continue to apply to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

2. All directives, authorized actions and provisions of the January 10, 2018, Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, and the April 4, 2018, June 28, 2018, September 24, 2018, December 21, 2018, and March 20, 2019, Amendments to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency shall remain in full

force and effect until either rescinded by me or terminated by operation of law ninety days following the effective date of this Proclamation Amendment.

3. This Proclamation Amendment shall take effect immediately.

*Given* under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this fourteenth day of June two thousand nineteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred and forty-third.



Tom Wolf  
Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 19-954. Filed for public inspection June 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m.]

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

### Notice of Veto; House Bill 800; Printer's No. 1676

June 18, 2019

To the Honorable House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 800, Printer's Number 1676.

The General Assembly and I are working very hard to adequately fund public education in this Commonwealth. The goal is to have an accountable system in place, and it is my belief that our current system is not funded sufficiently.

This legislation prompts a serious question: why would the Commonwealth allow for the expansion of the Education Investment Tax Credit (EITC) that supports private institutions while our current public-school system remains underfunded? We have public schools that are structurally deteriorating, contaminated by lead, and staffed by teachers who are not appropriately paid and overstretched in their responsibilities. Tackling these challenges, and others, should be our collective priority.

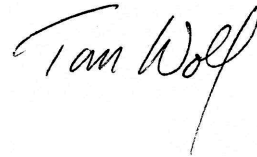
The EITC lacks proper accountability and oversight, and little is known about the educational outcomes of students participating in the program due to a reporting loophole in the current law. Even less is known about the scholarship organizations that retain up to twenty percent of each dollar that is supposed to pass through them and are subsidized heavily by taxpayers. Additionally, House Bill 800 seeks to increase the maximum annual household income limit to \$95,000, further deserting the program's original core principle.

I am also deeply concerned by the drastic escalation of the cost of this tax credit program. Initially, the annual cost of the tax credit program will be enlarged by \$100 million. Clearly, this is a considerable amount of revenue. Then, there are the automatic increases to the total amount of the program. According to the Department of Revenue, the amount of General Fund revenue that will be lost over the next five years on account of this bill is over \$650 million. This is a staggering sum in a relatively short period of time without a single dedicated revenue source.

Simply stated, the EITC program envisioned by House Bill 800 strays from the original stated intent of the program—to lift people out of poverty—and fails to provide any additional accountability or oversight for the tax dollars being expended.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 800, Printer's Number 1676.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and "W".

*Governor*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 19-955. Filed for public inspection June 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m.]

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