

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 07-20

WHEREAS, Section 20.43(2)(a), Florida Statutes, provides that the Department of Health shall be headed by a Secretary of Health and State Health Officer (the “Secretary”), who is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and who serves at the pleasure of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 20.43(1), Florida Statutes, the principal mission of the Department of Health, at the direction of the Secretary, is to promote and protect the health of all residents and visitors in the State; and

WHEREAS, Section 20.43(1), Florida Statutes, requires that the Department of Health, at the Secretary’s direction, promote the maintenance and improvement of health, establish programs in accordance with its mission, and provide residents of Florida with the best information available on how to improve their health and reduce their risk of illness and injury; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary’s responsibilities with respect to health education render the Secretary the state’s leading health educator and advocate for wellness, a status that would be most accurately reflected by the designation “State Surgeon General;” and

WHEREAS, the health of Florida’s citizens is crucial to the public welfare and to the continued economic prosperity of this state; and

WHEREAS, the People of Florida need a strong advocate for wellness; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary, acting as State Surgeon General, is uniquely situated to serve as this advocate by educating the public with respect to health issues and healthy lifestyle choices and by developing initiatives designed to reduce the prevalence of preventable diseases and disabilities and mitigate the effects of diseases and disabilities that cannot be prevented; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST, as Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1.

The Secretary of Health and State Health Officer shall also be officially known as the State Surgeon General. In her capacity as State Surgeon General, the Secretary shall serve as the state's leading advocate for wellness.

Section 2.

Acting within the parameters set forth in chapter 20, Florida Statutes, the State Surgeon General shall develop initiatives designed to promote awareness of health issues. Such initiatives shall relate to goals including, but not limited to, promoting school and workplace fitness and nutrition, encouraging early intervention and awareness regarding substance abuse and mental illness, promotion of healthy lifestyle choices, and prevention of injury and disease. The State Surgeon General shall devote special focus to these issues as they relate to the health of Florida's children.

Section 3.

Except as provided herein, the qualifications, rights, and responsibilities of the State Surgeon General shall be coextensive with those of the Secretary of Health and State Health Officer.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 2nd day of February, 2007.

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GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY OF STATE