WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, a major earthquake occurred in the boundary region separating the Caribbean plate and the North America plate approximately 10 miles from Port-au-Prince, Haiti; and

WHEREAS, devastating damage to the City of Port-au-Prince has lead to incalculable human suffering impacting an estimated 3 million people and resulting in a large number of fatalities; and

WHEREAS, licensed nurses who practice in the State of Florida are traveling to Haiti for an undetermined period of time in order to render medical aid to the injured; and

WHEREAS, due to the traveling of licensed nurses to Haiti in response to this disaster, the State of Florida may suffer a temporary shortage of licensed nurses; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 10-06 is currently in effect establishing a state of emergency in Florida pursuant to the State Emergency Act (Chapter 252, Florida Statutes);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the State Emergency Management Act (Chapter 252, Florida Statutes) and all other applicable laws, issue the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I find that the State of Florida may suffer a temporary shortage of licensed nurses.

Section 2. This shortage of licensed nurses may impede medical providers from providing necessary and adequate medical care for the people of Florida.
Section 3. The literal compliance by the Florida Department of Health with the licensing requirements for nurses who hold a valid license to practice nursing in another state or territory of the United States will prevent trained nurses from providing necessary and adequate medical care to the people of Florida.

Section 4. I direct that the requirements in 464.009(1)(a), Florida Statute, relating to the licensure by endorsement of nurses holding a valid license to practice nursing in another state or territory of the United States, are hereby suspended.

Section 5. I direct that the Department shall immediately institute an expedited Florida licensing by endorsement process pursuant to 464.009(1)(a), Florida Statute, for nurses holding a valid license to practice nursing in another state or territory of the United States.

Section 6. This Executive Order shall expire ninety (90) days from this date unless extended.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 25 day of January 2010.

Charlie Crist
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SENDERARY OF STATE