

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



## Proclamation

WHEREAS,

*Every person is endowed with human dignity and value; and*

WHEREAS,

*Redemption and second chances are American values; and*

WHEREAS,

*An estimated 65 million Americans have a criminal record; and*

WHEREAS,

*Individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences; and*

WHEREAS,

*Individuals with a criminal history often struggle to find housing, employment or education, regain voting rights, volunteer in their community, and pay for significant debt that arises as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and*

WHEREAS,

*The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 48,000; and*

WHEREAS,

*These barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; and*

WHEREAS,

*The stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record results in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and*

WHEREAS,

*The anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest outreach to prisoners and their families, falls on April 21, 2012; and*

WHEREAS,

*A robust coalition of businesses, congregations, and other organizations across the country has celebrated Second Chance Month since April 2017 through events, Second Chance 5ks, briefings, social media campaigns, advocacy, press, and other activities; and*

WHEREAS,

*The designation of April as Second Chance Month would contribute to increased public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debt, and opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances.*

NOW, THEREFORE,

*I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of April, 2018 as*

### SECOND CHANCE MONTH

*in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Eighteen.*



Attest:

*John A. Goe*  
Secretary of State

*Pete Ricketts*  
Governor