



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The United States of America must be land of opportunity for all of its citizens, where basic human dignity is placed at the forefront of our policies and decisionmaking; and
- WHEREAS: Nearly one-third of working age adults in the United States have a criminal record, while other research suggests that 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; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals with criminal histories often struggle to find housing, employment or education, regain voting rights, volunteer in their communities, and pay for significant debts that arise as a result of their convictions and incarcerations; and
- WHEREAS: The Council of State Governments reports that there are more than 48,000 documented social stigmas and legal restrictions that inhibit building full, productive lives after paying a debt to society; and
- WHEREAS: These barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; 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, public awareness, and other activities; and
- WHEREAS: Second Chance Month increases public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debts, and creates opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2018, as:

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 30th day of March.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE