

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** giving individuals who have been held accountable for their crimes a chance to become contributing members of society is vital to a criminal justice system that reduces crime rates and prison populations, decreases taxpayers' burdens, and makes our communities, state and nation safer; and
- WHEREAS,** an estimated 65 million Americans have a criminal record, with 19,989 persons incarcerated in the South Carolina Department of Corrections and 29,644 persons on probation and parole as of June 30, 2017; 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, that can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; and
- WHEREAS,** attaining the skills and abilities necessary for work and securing gainful employment are key to the successful re-entry to civilian life for millions of Americans with criminal records; and
- WHEREAS,** steady work not only provides a stable income, it also helps reinforce responsibility, restore self-worth, and affirm human dignity while contributing to a stronger nation; 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.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to help raise 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 to them.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA