

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**  
**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption is an American value; and

WHEREAS: An estimated 650,000 individuals complete prison sentences and rejoin society each year; and

WHEREAS: Individuals with a criminal record often struggle to adjust upon their reentry into society, and are often rearrested within the first three years of their release; and

WHEREAS: The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000; 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” raises public awareness concerning the need for closure for those who have paid their debt to society and encourages individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances to those reentering society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 2019, as

**SECOND CHANCE MONTH IN ARKANSAS**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2019.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State