



John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and value; and

WHEREAS, redemption and second chances are American values; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with more than 35,000 individuals incarcerated and 65,000 individuals on probation and parole in Louisiana; 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, the Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, with 1,339 consequences specific to Louisiana, and more than one thousand collateral consequences affecting the high school and higher education of youth in America; and

WHEREAS, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; and

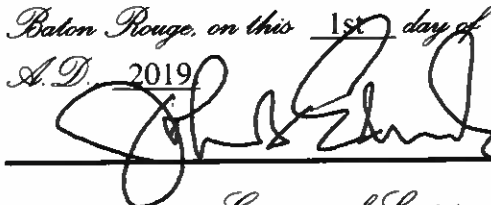
WHEREAS, the designation of April as Second Chance Month would contribute to increased public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debt, and opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations and communities to extend second chances.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as

SECOND CHANCE MONTH
in the State of Louisiana.



*In Witness Whereof, I have herunto set my hand
officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the
State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of
Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of April
A.D. 2019*



Governor of Louisiana