

The State of Washington



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 17,699 individuals incarcerated and 20,258 individuals on community supervision in Washington; 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 44,000, with 989 consequences specific to the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, youth in America face more than a thousand collateral consequences affecting their high school and higher education; 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, proclaim April 2019 as

Second Chance Month

in Washington state, and I encourage all people to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 13th day of March, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

