

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- 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 7,000 individuals incarcerated and 10,000 individuals on probation and parole in West Virginia; 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 856 consequences specific to West Virginia, 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 stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record results in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and
- Whereas**, the designation of April of *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**, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 2019* as:

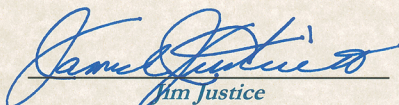
### *Second Chance Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Second day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Sixth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State