



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption and second chances are American values; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with more than 19,000 individuals incarcerated in State facilities and more than 150,000 individuals on probation and parole in New Jersey; 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, including 1,075 consequences specific to New Jersey, and more than 1,000 collateral consequences affecting students in high school and higher education in America; and

WHEREAS, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety, and 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, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the state of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**APRIL 2019
AS
SECOND CHANCE MONTH**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-ninth day of March in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR