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

WHEREAS, redemption and second chances are American values; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with 48,954 individuals incarcerated and more than 250,000 individuals under supervision by probation or parole in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, collateral consequences of a criminal conviction can be a barrier that contributes to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; and

WHEREAS, every citizen benefits when an individual who has been incarcerated returns home as a productive and engaged member of society; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize the month of April as

## SECOND CHANCE AWARENESS MONTH

on this 1st day of April 2019.

Mike DeWine Governor



Jon Husted Lieutenant Governor