

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

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 17,799 individuals incarcerated and 53,000 individuals on probation and parole in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, including 987 specific to Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Youth in America face more than one 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 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, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 2020, as

**SECOND CHANCE MONTH IN ARKANSAS**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord 2019.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State