

Proclamation



SECOND CHANCE MONTH

APRIL 2020

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and self-worth, and every person deserves an opportunity at redemption and a second chance to rebuild their lives, reach their full potential and become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, individuals released from prison and those who have paid their debts after committing a crime face significant barriers known as collateral consequences upon re-entry into society; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments reports the number of legal collateral consequences at the state and federal levels exceeds 44,000, including more than 1,000 for formerly incarcerated youth; and

WHEREAS, collateral consequences such as loss of eligibility for public funds, to serve on a jury, and the loss of voting rights often contribute to an increase in recidivism and victimization, and a decrease in public safety, human capital, and economic output for the United States; and

WHEREAS, Second Chance Month increases public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debts and provides an opportunity for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances to those with criminal records:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim April 2020 in Washington, DC, as "SECOND CHANCE MONTH".

