



## 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 Colorado; 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 717 consequences specific to Colorado, 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 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 will 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.*

*Therefore, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim April 2020 as*

### **SECOND CHANCE MONTH IN COLORADO**

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of April, 2020*



*Jared Polis*  
Jared Polis  
Governor