

# The State of Washington



## 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; 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 989 consequences specific to the state of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, youth in America face more than a 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 stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record results in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, proclaim April 2020 as

### *Second Chance Month*

in Washington State, and I encourage all people to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee