

## APRIL 2022: SECOND CHANCE MONTH

- WHEREAS,** Every person is endowed with human dignity and value;
- WHEREAS,** Redemption and second chances are American values;
- WHEREAS,** More than 70 million Americans have a criminal record, and;<sup>1</sup>
- WHEREAS,** Individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences;
- 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;<sup>2</sup>
- WHEREAS,** The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000;<sup>3</sup>
- WHEREAS,** Youth face more than one thousand collateral consequences affecting their high school and higher education.<sup>4</sup>
- WHEREAS,** These barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety;
- WHEREAS,** The stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record results in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States;<sup>5</sup>
- WHEREAS,** The anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the nation’s largest outreach to prisoners and their families, falls on April 21, 2012;
- WHEREAS,** A robust coalition of businesses, congregations, and other organizations across the country has celebrated Second Chance Month since April

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<sup>1</sup> Anastasia Christman & Michelle Natividad Rodriguez, *Research Supports Fair Chance Policies*, The National Employment Law Project (August 2016), [https://www.nelp.org/publication/research-supports-fair-chance-policies/#\\_edn](https://www.nelp.org/publication/research-supports-fair-chance-policies/#_edn).

<sup>2</sup> John M. Nally, et al., *Post-Release Recidivism and Employment among Different Types of Released Offenders: A 5-Year Follow-up Study in the United States*, 9 Int'l J. of Crim. Just. Sci. 1, 16, 23 (2014); Matthew Makarios, et al., *Examining the Predictors of Recidivism Among Men and Women Released from Prison in Ohio*, 37 Crim. Just. Behav. 1377 (December 2010); Amy Blank Wilson, *It Takes ID to Get ID: The New Identity Politics in Services*, 83 Soc. Sci. Rev. 111 (2009), available at [http://www.jeffreylonghofer.com/resources/Dissertation-Seminar/Syllabus-/qualitative\\_ssr\\_it-takes-id.pdf](http://www.jeffreylonghofer.com/resources/Dissertation-Seminar/Syllabus-/qualitative_ssr_it-takes-id.pdf); Lynn M. Clark, *Landlord Attitudes Toward Renting to Released Offenders*, 71 Fed. Probation 20, (June 2007); Maria Pabon Lopez, *More than a License to Drive: State Restrictions on the Use of Driver's Licenses by Noncitizens*, 29 S. Ill. U. L.J. 91 (2004); Nancy La Vigne, et al., *Release Planning for Successful Reentry: A Guide for Corrections, Service Providers, and Community Groups*, Urban Institute (September 2008), <http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/411767-Release-Planning-for-Successful-Reentry.PDF>; Harry J. Holzer, *Collateral Costs: The Effects of Incarceration on the Employment and Earnings of Young Workers* 12 (Institute for the Study of Labor, Discussion Paper No. 3118, October 2007).

<sup>3</sup> Justice Center, *National Inventory of the Collateral Consequences of Conviction*, The Council of State Governments (2022), <https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> John Schmitt & Kris Warner, *Ex-offenders and the Labor market*, Center for Economic and Policy Research (November 2010), <http://cepr.net/documents/publications/ex-offenders-2010-11.pdf>.

2017 through prayer walks, Second Chance Sunday services, briefings, social media campaigns, advocacy, press, Second Chance 5ks, and other events and activities;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS,**

Dignified work and community support are keys to flourishing after incarceration, but the COVID-19 pandemic has caused one in three individuals in community corrections to lose their jobs and many reentry providers to close or cut back on their operations;<sup>7</sup>

**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, *Governor's Name*, Governor of the State of *state*, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as Second Chance Month in *state*.

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of *state* this  
\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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<sup>6</sup> Prison Fellowship, *Second Chance Month*, Prison Fellowship (2022), <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/justicereform/second-chance-month/>.

<sup>7</sup> Nicole Jarrett & Rebecca Cohen, *Reentry in the Wake of COVID-19: Service Providers Adapt but Need More Support to Address Community Needs*, The Council of State Governments (Nov. 2021), [https://csgjusticecenter.org/2021/11/02/reentry-in-the-wake-of-covid-19-service-providers-adapt-but-need-more-support-to-address-community-needs/?mc\\_cid=f784b1b7de&mc\\_eid=c74d13e5f7](https://csgjusticecenter.org/2021/11/02/reentry-in-the-wake-of-covid-19-service-providers-adapt-but-need-more-support-to-address-community-needs/?mc_cid=f784b1b7de&mc_eid=c74d13e5f7).