



# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption and second chances are American values; and*

*WHEREAS, more than 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with more than 16,000 individuals incarcerated in Colorado; and*

*WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison 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, education, volunteering opportunities in their community, registering or engaging with their right to vote, and pay for the 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, 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 result in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, Second Chance Month is designed 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 2022 as*

## *SECOND CHANCE MONTH*

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of April, 2022*



A blue ink signature of Jared Polis, written in a cursive style.

*Jared Polis  
Governor*