



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## 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 12,000 individuals incarcerated in State facilities and more than 93,000 individuals on probation and parole in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison and have paid their debt face significant barriers, which are referred to as collateral consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, including 1,075 consequences specific to New Jersey, and more than 1,000 collateral consequences affecting students in high school and higher education 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 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, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the state of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 2022  
AS  
SECOND CHANCE MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twelfth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-two, the two hundred forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States.

*Richard J. DeLeon*

Lt. GOVERNOR

*Philip D. Murphy*

GOVERNOR