

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, giving individuals who have been held accountable for their crimes a chance to become contributing members of society is vital to a criminal justice system that reduces crime rates and prison populations, decreases taxpayers' burdens, and makes our communities, state, and nation safer; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with 15,300 persons incarcerated in the South Carolina Department of Corrections and 22,086 persons involved with Probation, Pardon and Parole as of December 2021; and

WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison, have paid their debt after committing a crime, face significant barriers, collateral consequences, that can contribute to recidivism, increase victimization, and decrease public safety long after the individual is fully rehabilitated; and

WHEREAS, attaining the skills and abilities necessary for work and securing gainful employment are essential to the successful re-entry to civilian life for millions of Americans with criminal records; and

WHEREAS, steady work not only provides a stable income, it also helps reinforce responsibility, restore self-worth, and affirm human dignity while contributing to a stronger nation; and

WHEREAS, a robust coalition of businesses, congregations, and many other organizations across the nation have celebrated Second Chance Month since April 2017 through prayer walks, Second Chance Sunday services, briefings, social media campaigns, advocacy, press, Second Chance 5Ks, and other events and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to help raise awareness of the need for closure for those who have paid their debt and encourage the creation of opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances to them.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA