



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

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

WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison and those who have otherwise completed their sentences 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 educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, with 954 consequences specific to Tennessee, 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 results in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and

WHEREAS, the designation of April as Second Chance Month contributes to increased public awareness about the re-entry needs of returning citizens and opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2020 as

Second Chance Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of February, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lieke Hargitt

Secretary of State

