



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, every person is endowed with human dignity and value; and

**WHEREAS**, redemption and second chances are American values; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimate 80 million Americans have a criminal record, with 27,000 individuals incarcerated and 75,000 individuals under community supervision in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction nearly reaches 44,000, including 913 specific to Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; 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, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2026 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 second day of March 2026.



*Bill Lee*

Governor

*DePangst*

Secretary of State