

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, redemption and second chances are American values; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with approximately 16,000 individuals incarcerated in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences, that can contribute to recidivism; and

WHEREAS, individuals with a criminal history often struggle to find housing, employment, or education, regain voting rights, volunteer in their community, and pay for significant debt that arises as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, attaining the skills and abilities necessary for work and securing gainful employment are key to 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 other organizations across the country has 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 2024 as

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

and April 22 - 26, 2024, as

REENTRY WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to help raise 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.



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA