

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; compassion, empathy, and forgiveness are values that are at the core of our identity as Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; providing a second chance for formerly incarcerated individuals to make amends and be successful is essential to the future and prosperity of our state; and

WHEREAS; with nearly 20,000 individuals currently incarcerated and more than 62,700 individuals on probation and parole in Wisconsin alone, we recognize the value of investing in people, not prisons, and that we must make the safe and successful reentry of justice-involved individuals into communities across our state a priority; and

WHEREAS; formerly incarcerated individuals often face difficulties finding adequate employment, housing, and education, as well as volunteer opportunities and pathways to pay off debt arising from conviction and incarceration, which are all factors that result in lost potential, contribute to recidivism, and affect public safety; and

WHEREAS; individuals reentering society are our family members, friends, and neighbors who are deserving of a second chance to raise their families, excel in their careers, continue their education, volunteer, and be active members in our communities; and

WHEREAS; in Wisconsin, we are taking critical steps to shift the focus of our justice system to prioritize reentry programming, alternatives to incarceration, and second chances for those who have earned them, including through the reinstatement of the Governor's Pardon Advisory Board which, since 2019, and as of February 2022, has played a role in issuing 416 pardons, more than have been issued under any other administration in contemporary state history; and


WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins justice-involved individuals, advocates, and dedicated organizations across our state and country in reaffirming its commitment to comprehensive and meaningful criminal justice reform, promoting compassion, empathy, and forgiveness, and raising awareness of opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

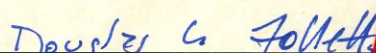
SECOND CHANCE MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 25th day of March 2022.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

