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, and in Wisconsin, 23,406 individuals incarcerated, and 65,445 individuals are on probation and parole in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face stigma barrier, also known as collateral consequences; and

WHEREAS; the Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, including 646 consequences specific to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; individuals with a criminal history often struggle to find housing, employment or education, regain voting rights, volunteer in our communities, and pay for off debt that arising from their conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS; 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; Second Chance Month contributes 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, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

throughout the state of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

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 29th day of March 2019.

TONY EVER
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State