

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### PROCLAMATION

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

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

**WHEREAS**, more than 70 million Americans have a criminal record. The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, including 864 specific to Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with a criminal history and those returning from prison who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record result in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest outreach to prisoners and their families, falls on April 21, 2012; 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; and

**WHEREAS**, dignified work and community support are keys to flourishing after incarceration, and Mississippi is committed to intentional re-entry programs that provide inmates with valuable job skills that equip them to enter the workforce when they return to society after incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation of April as Second Chance Month will contribute to increased public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debt and the opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

### SECOND CHANCE MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and do commend this observance to all our citizens.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 1st day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR