

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption and second chances are American values; and

WHEREAS, more than 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with more 1,300 individuals incarcerated and 4,800 individuals on community supervision in Vermont; 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; 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 convictions and incarcerations; and

WHEREAS, the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction nearly reaches 44,000 including 317 consequences specific to Vermont; and

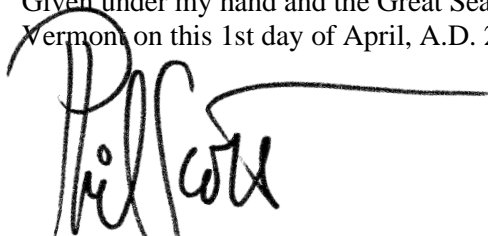
WHEREAS, a robust coalition of businesses, congregations, and other organizations across the country has celebrated Second Chance Month since April 2017 through prayer walks, Second Chance Sunday services, briefings, social media campaigns, advocacy, press, Second Chance 5ks, and other events and activities; and

WHEREAS, 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, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 2024 as


**SECOND CHANCE MONTH
in Vermont.**

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of April, A.D. 2024.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs