

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in the land of the free, a criminal record should not mean a lifetime disqualification from the opportunity to build a better life for oneself or one's family; and

WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing 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 the significant debt that arises as a result of conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; these barriers also result in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and

WHEREAS, helping people with criminal records become productive members of society benefits their families and communities in many ways, including improving safety, reducing crime, and boosting community and economic development.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

### SECOND CHANCE MONTH

to increase public awareness about the need for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this first day of April two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Governor Josh Shapiro