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& Rep. Minor-Brown
Sens. Gay, Hansen, Pinkney, Sokola, Townsend, Wilson;
Reps. Baumbach, Chukwuocha, Griffith, K. Johnson,
Morrison, Neal, Parker Selby, K. Williams, Yearick

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 132

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2024 AS "SECOND CHANCE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, everyone deserves an opportunity to rebuild their lives, reach their fullest potential, and become
2 productive members of society; and

3 WHEREAS, an estimated 77 million Americans have a criminal record, and more than 600,000 individuals return
4 to their communities from state and federal prisons each year; and

5 WHEREAS, an estimated 153,000 Delawareans have criminal conviction records, and about 2,145 Delawareans
6 are released from prison each year; and

7 WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison often struggle to find housing, employment, or regain voting rights
8 as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and

9 WHEREAS, mass incarceration and failed criminal justice policies have emphasized imprisonment over
10 rehabilitation and prevention for years, resulting in nearly 1 in 3 American adults, and nearly 1 in 3 adult Delawareans,
11 having a criminal record; and

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

14 WHEREAS, reducing barriers contributes to public safety by reducing recidivism, increasing the economic well-
15 being of entire communities, and allowing individuals the opportunity to seek a better life for themselves and their families
16 and to contribute to society in a positive and meaningful way; and

17 WHEREAS, gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry and
18 reducing future criminal activity; and

19 WHEREAS, Delaware's criminal justice reform efforts have expanded the availability of juvenile and adult
20 expungements, limited criminal prosecution of children under age 12, ended the publication of juvenile mugshots, provided
21 funding for counseling and vocational training to keep juveniles out of the criminal justice system, required electronic
22 recording of custodial interrogation by law enforcement, expanded the ability of the Delaware Department of Justice to
23 review law enforcement use-of-force incidents, increased judicial discretion in the stacking of sentences, and lessened
24 restrictions on professional licensure occupations; and

25 WHEREAS, many system-impacted individuals are still not aware of the opportunities available due to criminal
26 justice reforms; and

27 WHEREAS, focusing on prevention, reentry, and social support, rather than incarceration, ensures that America is
28 a land of second chances and opportunity for all people; and

29 WHEREAS, Second Chance Month increases public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid
30 their debts to society and provides an opportunity for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend
31 second chances to those with criminal records; and

32 WHEREAS, On March 31, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden proclaimed April 2023 as Second Chance Month;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, the General Assembly previously declared April 2023 as Second Chance Month and wishes to
35 continue its recognition of this important issue in 2024.

36 NOW, THEREFORE:

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
38 Representatives concurring therein, that April 2024 is hereby recognized as "Second Chance Month" in the State of
39 Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution proclaims April 2024 as "Second Chance Month" in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Brown