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Pettyjohn, Pinkney, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon,
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DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2023 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, individuals returning from prison often struggle to find housing, employment, or regain voting rights
6 as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, on March 31, 2022, President Biden proclaimed April 2022 as Second Chance Month; and

30 WHEREAS, the General Assembly previously declared April 2022 as Second Chance Month and wishes to
31 continue its recognition of this important issue in 2023.

32 NOW, THEREFORE:

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
34 Representatives concurring therein, that April 2023 is hereby recognized as "Second Chance Month" in the State of
35 Delaware.
36

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution proclaims April 2023 as "Second Chance Month" in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Brown