



PROCLAMATION

**SECOND CHANCE MONTH
April 2023**

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

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with 49,280 individuals incarcerated and 41,305 individuals are on probation and parole in Pennsylvania; 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 significant debt that arises as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, with 850 consequences specific to Pennsylvania; 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, Pennsylvania is leading the nation with a steady advancement of bipartisan criminal justice reforms focused on removing barriers that prevent advancement in the workforce: creating the nation's first Clean Slate law; creating a chance hiring policy for state government; and eliminating driver's license suspensions for non-driving infractions; all while seeing consecutive annual decreases in our prison population and a drop in crime.

THEREFORE, We, the commissioners of Warren County, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as SECOND CHANCE MONTH. This designation contributes 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.

ADOPTED, this 8th day of March, 2023.

COMMISSIONERS OF WARREN COUNTY

Handwritten signature of Tricia D. Durbin in black ink.

Tricia D. Durbin
Chair

Handwritten signature of Benjamin Kafferlin in black ink.

Benjamin Kafferlin
Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Jeff Eggleston in black ink.

Jeff Eggleston
Commissioner

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Pamela J. Matve in black ink.

Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

