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

WHEREAS, approximately 70 million Americans have a criminal record; with 1,928 individuals incarcerated and 7,126 individuals on community supervision in North Dakota currently; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, including 544 specific to North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety; and

WHEREAS, Second Chance Month is intended to increase public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debt, and promote opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations and communities to extend second chances.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2024, SECOND CHANCE MONTH in the State of North Dakota.