

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1143.01 Erin Enders x3205

HJR17-1026

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wist and Lee,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1026

101 **CONCERNING DESIGNATING APRIL 2017 AS "SECOND CHANCE**
102 **MONTH".**

1 WHEREAS, Every person is endowed with human dignity; and

2 WHEREAS, Redemption and second chances are American
3 values; and

4 WHEREAS, An estimated 65 million American citizens have a
5 criminal record; and

6 WHEREAS, Eighty-six thousand people are currently incarcerated
7 or under the supervision of the Colorado Department of Corrections, and
8 data shows that approximately 95 percent of those in state prison will be
9 released to their communities; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with a criminal record often face a
2 "second prison" of significant barriers, also known as collateral
3 consequences; and

4 WHEREAS, Many of these collateral consequences fail to provide
5 any proven public safety benefit, are mandatory, and take effect
6 automatically, regardless of the seriousness of the offense, the time
7 passed since the offense, or the individual's efforts to make amends and
8 earn back the public's trust; and

9 WHEREAS, The inability to find gainful employment and other
10 collateral consequences of conviction inhibit the economic mobility of
11 people with a criminal history, which negatively impacts the well-being
12 of their children and families for generations; and

13 WHEREAS, Collateral consequences contribute to recidivism,
14 increase victimization, decrease public safety, and result in lost economic
15 output for Colorado and the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, BKB Limited, BornFit, Denver Scrap Metal
17 Recycling, Hallucination Sports, H.E.A.T. Inc., Lifted From The Rut, the
18 Hornbuckle Foundation, Prison Fellowship, Second Chances Denver, The
19 Shores Treatment & Recovery, TRIBE Recovery Services, and Youth for
20 Christ sponsored the annual Second Chances 5k on Saturday, April 8,
21 2017, in Denver, Colorado, in order to raise awareness of the obstacles
22 that people with a criminal record face and to provide opportunities for
23 members of the community to run or walk in honor of second chances;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, April 21, 2012, is the anniversary of the death of
26 Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration
27 for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the nation's
28 largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners and their families; and

29 WHEREAS, The designation of April as "Second Chance Month"
30 can increase public awareness about the need for closure for those with
31 a criminal record and about opportunities to provide second chances;
32 now, therefore,

33 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
34 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

1 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

2 (1) Designate April 2017 as "Second Chance Month";

3 (2) Honor the work of communities, governmental institutions,
4 nonprofits, congregations, employers, and individuals in removing
5 unnecessary legal and societal barriers that prevent individuals with a
6 criminal record from becoming productive members of society; and

7 (3) Call upon the people of Colorado to observe "Second Chance
8 Month" through actions and programs that promote awareness of the
9 "second prison" and provide second chances for those who have paid
10 their debt.

11 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
12 to Donald Trump, President of the United States; Mike Pence, Vice
13 President of the United States; Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the
14 United States; John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; Donna Lynne,
15 Lieutenant Governor of Colorado; Rick Raemisch, Executive Director of
16 the Colorado Department of Corrections; BKB Limited; BornFit; Denver
17 Scrap Metal Recycling; Hallucination Sports; H.E.A.T. Inc.; Lifted From
18 The Rut; the Hornbuckle Foundation; Prison Fellowship; Second Chances
19 Denver; The Shores Treatment & Recovery; TRIBE Recovery Services;
20 Youth for Christ; and the members of Colorado's Congressional
21 delegation.