



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1026

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Wist and Lee, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, EsGAR, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Young, Duran; also SENATOR(S) Fields, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING DESIGNATING APRIL 2017 AS "SECOND CHANCE MONTH".

WHEREAS, Every person is endowed with human dignity; and

WHEREAS, Redemption and second chances are American values; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

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

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

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

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Donald Trump, President of the United States; Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States; Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the United States; John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; Donna Lynne, Lieutenant Governor of Colorado; Rick Raemisch, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections; BKB Limited; BornFit; Denver Scrap Metal Recycling; Hallucination Sports; H.E.A.T. Inc.; Lifted From The Rut; the Hornbuckle Foundation; Prison Fellowship; Second Chances

Denver; The Shores Treatment & Recovery; TRIBE Recovery Services; Youth for Christ; and the members of Colorado's Congressional delegation.

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin J. Grantham
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THE SENATE

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