

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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SR26-007

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman,

Senate Committees

SENATE RESOLUTION 26-007

101 CONCERNING DESIGNATING APRIL 2026 AS SECOND CHANCE MONTH.

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 77 million American citizens possess
2 a criminal record; and

3 WHEREAS, Between incarceration, parole, probation, and youth
4 services, there are roughly 100,000 individuals in Colorado alone who are
5 under the supervision of the state's Department of Corrections; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 95% of the individuals in Colorado's state
7 prisons are ultimately released and return to their communities, with an
8 estimated 6,000 individuals released annually; this number is equivalent
9 to 20% of the number of new entrants to Colorado's workforce each year;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with a criminal record, however, often
12 face a "second prison" in the form of "collateral consequences", which are
13 the legal and regulatory restrictions, non-court-imposed penalties, and
14 significant social barriers that result from a conviction; and

15 WHEREAS, One of the most impactful collateral consequences,

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 the enhanced difficulty in finding gainful employment, inhibits the
2 economic mobility of people with a criminal record, which has severe
3 negative impacts on the well-being of their children and families for
4 generations; and

5 WHEREAS, Other collateral consequences include ineligibility for
6 certain public benefits and housing; limited access to education and
7 professional licensure and certification; and a restricted ability to
8 volunteer, vote, and engage in other forms of civic participation; and

9 WHEREAS, Many collateral consequences are mandatory,
10 automatic, and indefinite, taking effect regardless of the lack of any
11 proven public safety benefit and without any consideration toward the
12 seriousness of an offense, the time passed since the offense, or an
13 individual's efforts to make amends and earn back the public's trust; and

14 WHEREAS, Collateral consequences contribute to recidivism;
15 increase victimization; decrease public safety; result in lost economic
16 output for Colorado and the United States; and limit opportunities for
17 individuals with a criminal record to honor their second chance,
18 contribute to their community, and help others in their situation, as many
19 choose to do; and

20 WHEREAS, For example, Charles Colson, who was convicted of
21 Watergate-related crimes, dedicated his second chance following his
22 incarceration to founding Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest
23 Christian-faith-based nonprofit for prisoners, former prisoners, and their
24 families, which has the mission of advocating for criminal justice reforms
25 that "validate victims, help transform those responsible for crime, and
26 create safer communities"; and

27 WHEREAS, Redemption and second chances are long-standing
28 American values, as is the principle that every individual is endowed with
29 human dignity and deserving of respect; and

30 WHEREAS, Designating April 2026 as Second Chance Month
31 will increase public awareness of the need to help provide second chances
32 for those with criminal records so that they may achieve closure, embrace
33 hope, and pursue a brighter future; now, therefore,

34 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
35 *of the State of Colorado:*

1 That we, the members of the Colorado Senate:

2 (1) Designate April 2026 as Second Chance Month;

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

7 (3) Call upon the citizens 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 Senate Resolution be
12 sent to Donald Trump, President of the United States; JD Vance, Vice
13 President of the United States; Todd Blanche, Acting Attorney General
14 of the United States; Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado; Dianne
15 Primavera, Lieutenant Governor of Colorado; Andre Stancil, Executive
16 Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections; Katie Ruske,
17 Manager of the Office of Community Corrections in the Colorado
18 Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice; Prison
19 Fellowship; the Second Chance Center; and the members of Colorado's
20 Congressional delegation.