

Date of Hearing: April 20, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
ACR 176 (Elhawary) – As Introduced April 15, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Second Chance Month.

**SUMMARY:** Proclaims the month of April 2026 as Second Chance Month in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Redemption and second chances are values of California. Restorative justice through healing and rehabilitation can help uplift society.
- 2) An estimated eight million residents of California have a criminal record. About 35,000 Californians return to their communities from prison every year. Individuals returning from prison or jail have paid their debt for committing crimes but still face significant legal and societal barriers.
- 3) For individuals returning to their communities from prison or jail, gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry and has been shown to reduce future criminal activity.
- 4) Many individuals who have been incarcerated struggle to find employment and access capital to start a small business because of collateral consequences, which are sometimes not directly related to the offenses the individuals committed or any proven public safety benefit.
- 5) In addition to employment, education has also been shown to be a significant predictor of successful reentry for individuals returning from prison. An individual who has been convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge through some formal education programs.
- 6) An individual with a criminal record faces significant barriers in securing a place to live and is often barred from seeking access to public housing.
- 7) Individuals returning from prison or jail often contribute to their communities by providing peer support services, helping prevent others from entering into the carceral system. They often engage in advocacy and become involved in criminal justice reform, using their experience to shape more effective policy.
- 8) The designation of April 2026 as Second Chance Month may contribute to increased public awareness about the impact of collateral consequences and the need for closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt.
- 9) Second Chance Month may also contribute to increased public awareness about opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances to individuals with a criminal record.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800