
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 176
Author: Elhawary (D), et al.
Introduced: 4/15/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Second Chance Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the month of April 2026 as Second Chance Month in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Every individual is endowed with human dignity and value. Redemption and second chances are values of California. Restorative justice through healing and rehabilitation can help uplift society.
- 2) An estimated 8 million residents of California have a criminal record. About 35,000 Californians return to their communities from prison every year.
- 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) 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) Those barriers can have an impact on public safety by contributing to recidivism.

- 7) 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.

This resolution proclaims the month of April 2026 as Second Chance Month in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:No Local:No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/8/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/8/26)

None received

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5/13/26 16:27:54

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