

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026

Message on Second Chance Month

April 30, 2026

For 250 years, America has stood as a Nation that believes in the potential of its people. We are built on hope, hard work, and the enduring promise that individuals can learn from their mistakes, grow in character, and move forward with purpose. This Second Chance Month, my administration remains committed to supporting pathways to redemption, strengthening safer communities, and ensuring that those who take responsibility and seek to rebuild their lives have the chance to succeed.

During my first term, I proudly signed the First Step Act into law, enacting historic criminal justice reforms to lessen harsh disproportionate sentencing for nonviolent criminals, reduce recidivism, and provide second chances for individuals reentering society. Upon returning to office, for the first time ever, I appointed a White House Pardon Czar to lead our clemency efforts with a clear focus on both opportunity and accountability. The safety of our communities remains my top priority in every pardon recommendation, but the story of America is filled with individuals who have demonstrated real change in their hearts and earned a second chance. We are committed to giving those people the opportunity to rebuild their lives, supported by resources like faith-based guidance, mental health support, and access to good-paying jobs so they can make better choices, give back to their communities, and build a better future.

This month, we reaffirm that the strength of our Nation is rooted in the power of transformation and renewal. Together, we will uphold justice, defend the rule of law, and place the blessings of freedom and opportunity within reach for every citizen willing to strive for them.

NOTE: The message referred to White House Pardon Czar Alice M. Johnson.

Categories: Letters and Messages : Second Chance Month, message.

Names: Johnson, Alice M.

Subjects: Criminal justice system, reform efforts; Second Chance Month; White House Pardon Czar.

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