

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 210

Rep. Dievendorf offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2024 as Second Chance Month in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Every human being is worthy of respect and dignity;
4 and

5 Whereas, Redemption and rehabilitation are core to our beliefs
6 and commitment to one another; and

7 Whereas, Second chances and opportunities to rebuild one's
8 life after an arrest or incarceration are pivotal to not only
9 individuals, but also to strong and healthy communities in
10 Michigan; and

11 Whereas, More than four million Michiganders have some type of
12 arrest or conviction history; and

1 Whereas, People with conviction histories face immense
2 barriers when returning to our communities, such as challenges to
3 obtaining safe and stable housing, finding employment, accessing
4 education, reuniting with family, and navigating restrictions on
5 their mobility; and

6 Whereas, The barriers faced by people with conviction
7 histories are disproportionately felt by people of color and people
8 experiencing poverty; and

9 Whereas, People who are formerly incarcerated are almost ten
10 times more likely than the general public to be unhoused; and

11 Whereas, Removing barriers and increasing access to stable
12 housing and meaningful employment is linked to decreased crime and
13 improved public safety; and

14 Whereas, Michigan has made great strides with historic clean
15 slate legislation to expunge Michiganders' records, breaking down
16 barriers to housing, employment, and other essential needs; and

17 Whereas, Continued efforts must be made to ensure that all
18 Michiganders have access to second chances and opportunities to
19 build a healthy life for our collective communities to be whole and
20 strong; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
22 this legislative body declare April 2024 as Second Chance Month in
23 the state of Michigan. We recognize the importance of second
24 chances and removing barriers for people with conviction histories.