

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

Senator Irwin offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize April 2023 as Second Chance Month
2 and April 23-29, 2023, as Reentry Week.

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 4 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 10
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 Senate, That the members of this legislative
22 body recognize April 2023 as Second Chance Month and April 23-29,
23 2023, as Reentry Week. We recognize the importance of second
24 chances and removing barriers for people with conviction histories.