

The Second Chances Pledge

“I Believe in Second Chances...”

- Because I believe increased public awareness will aid in the long-term success of those who have paid their debt to society, and opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances;
- Because every person is endowed with human dignity and value;
- Because redemption and second chances are American values;
- Because an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record;¹
- Because individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences;
- Because individuals with a criminal history often struggle to find housing, employment or education, regain voting rights, volunteer in their community, and pay for significant debt that arises as a result of their conviction and incarceration;²
- Because these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety;
- Because the stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record results in lost human capital and lost economic output for our local community;³

I stand with the Second Chances Alliance of East Tennessee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

¹ Anastasia Christman & Michelle Natividad Rodriguez, *Research Supports Fair Chance Policies*, The National Employment Law Project (August 2016), https://www.nelp.org/publication/research-supports-fair-chance-policies/#_edn.

² John M. Nally, et al., *Post-Release Recidivism and Employment among Different Types of Released Offenders: A 5-Year Follow-up Study in the United States*, 9 Int'l J. of Crim. Just. Sci. 1, 16, 23 (2014); Matthew Makarios, et al., *Examining the Predictors of Recidivism Among Men and Women Released from Prison in Ohio*, 37 Crim. Just. Behav. 1377 (December 2010); Amy Blank Wilson, *It Takes ID to Get ID: The New Identity Politics in Services*, 83 Soc. Sci. Rev. 111 (2009), available at http://www.jeffreylonghofer.com/resources/Dissertation-Seminar/Syllabus-/qualitative_ssr_it-takes-id.pdf; Lynn M. Clark, *Landlord Attitudes Toward Renting to Released Offenders*, 71 Fed. Probation 20, (June 2007); Maria Pabon Lopez, *More than a License to Drive: State Restrictions on the Use of Driver's Licenses by Noncitizens*, 29 S. Ill. U. L.J. 91 (2004); Nancy La Vigne, et al., *Release Planning for Successful Reentry: A Guide for Corrections, Service Providers, and Community Groups*, Urban Institute (September 2008), <http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/411767-Release-Planning-for-Successful-Reentry.PDF>; Harry J. Holzer, *Collateral Costs: The Effects of Incarceration on the Employment and Earnings of Young Workers* 12 (Institute for the Study of Labor, Discussion Paper No. 3118, October 2007).

³ John Schmitt & Kris Warner, *Ex-offenders and the Labor market*, Center for Economic and Policy Research (November 2010), <http://cepr.net/documents/publications/ex-offenders-2010-11.pdf>.