



SECOND CHANCE MONTH

President Joe Biden has declared April as [#SecondChanceMonth22](#), highlighting the more than 640,000 individuals returning to our communities from jails and prisons every year and the importance of their successful transitions back into society. On behalf of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), I want to salute the 100,000 community corrections professionals in our country who assist and supervise those persons released from correctional systems. Whether it's a large probation agency like Los Angeles, which has 6,000 employees, or a two-person probation office in rural Alabama, being a probation or parole officer (PO) is challenging work. Each day, POs work hard to enhance public safety and to provide interventions for a successful transition back into society, such as connections to counseling, job training and education, treatment, and social supports. By far, the community corrections component of the justice system has the greatest potential to transform lives. I am delighted by the [support of President Biden](#) to recognize this important work to reduce recidivism and build safer communities.

Let's continue to embrace reentry efforts and raise our voices for second chances for formerly incarcerated persons, many of whom are our friends, family members, and neighbors!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Veronica Cunningham'.

Veronica Ballard Cunningham
Executive Director/CEO