



## Legislation Text

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To recognize April 26-April 30 as National Reentry Week

**WHEREAS**, each year, over 600,000 individuals return to their communities from State and Federal prisons; and

**WHEREAS**, the challenges facing formerly incarcerated people during their transition back in to society are numerous, including finding and maintaining employment, locating safe and affordable housing, obtaining reliable transportation, accessing health care, and various other difficulties which can lead to recidivism; and

**WHEREAS**, an individual's conviction history should not unfairly exclude them from fair access to public benefits, including the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, working with formerly incarcerated people to create opportunities for them to lead healthy and productive lives benefits both their families and local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, and local government must work towards establishing programs and policies focused on removing the barriers that prevent formerly incarcerated people from thriving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Columbus City Council continues efforts to expunge and seal certain criminal records so that people can overcome their past; and

**WHEREAS**, by focusing on prevention, reentry, and social supports, we can ensure a community that is a place of second chances and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Ohio Restored Citizens' Collaborative is a coalition dedicated to supporting those touched by the justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Ohio Restored Citizens' Collaborative is sponsoring Central Ohio Reentry Week 2021, a collaborative week long event celebrating successes and highlighting the importance of effective reentry practices and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, every person deserves dignity and the opportunity to unlock a brighter future, especially those that have paid their debt to society.

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

That this Council does hereby, recognize April 26- April 30, 2021 as Reentry Week in the City of Columbus and commends the Central Ohio Restored Citizens Collaborative for their ongoing efforts to uplift and support restored citizens throughout the Central Ohio region.