

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 2023 has been recognized by presidential
2 proclamation as Second Chance Month to honor those who have
3 successfully reentered society after being incarcerated and to pay
4 tribute to the community groups, faith-based organizations, and
5 employers that are helping to reduce recidivism among former
6 inmates; and

7 WHEREAS, Individuals who have been incarcerated face
8 significant barriers in returning to life outside of a detention
9 facility; those who have successfully made that transition are
10 worthy of recognition, not only because of the challenges they have
11 overcome but also because of the positive example they provide to
12 others who are walking the same path; and

13 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is home to many men and women who
14 have transcended their troubled pasts to become productive
15 citizens; among their numbers are Cynthia Simons and Justin
16 Martinez, who have dedicated themselves to assisting formerly
17 incarcerated Texans in rebuilding their lives; and

18 WHEREAS, Since her release from prison, Cynthia Simons has
19 become a champion for incarcerated women and their families and has
20 made a significant difference through her efforts as a peer leader
21 and reentry specialist; she has served as a member of the
22 Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable and of the board of
23 MEASURE, a Black-led organization that works to promote data equity
24 to address community policing as well as health, education, and

1 economic disparities; she is an advocate for the liberation of
2 Black people across the State of Texas, and she has played a pivotal
3 role in restoring parental rights to families torn apart by
4 incarceration; and

5 WHEREAS, After being incarcerated, Justin Martinez completed
6 his master's degree in legal studies with a paralegal
7 certification; he has since become a policy analyst, and through
8 his research and advocacy, he strives to dismantle systems of
9 oppression and to help Texans break the cycle of incarceration; and

10 WHEREAS, Many more individuals throughout our state have
11 likewise emerged from the criminal justice system to realize
12 meaningful goals in a broad range of endeavors, and their
13 experiences offer a moving testament to the human potential for
14 redemption; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize April 2023 as Second Chance Month,
17 honor Cynthia Simons and Justin Martinez for their contributions as
18 activists for criminal justice reform and rehabilitation, and
19 commend those organizations and individuals who are assisting
20 former inmates in reintegrating into society.

J. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 1176

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1176 was adopted by the House on April 25, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House