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MEDIA ALERT: 10TH ANNUAL SECOND CHANCE DAY ON THE HILL
Lawmakers introduce a bill to restore the vote to Minnesotans on probation or parole

St. Paul, MN – Feb. 9, 2017 – Minnesotans organized today at the State Capitol to advance second chances for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system through a rally in the rotunda and one-on-one visits with their legislators. Second Chance Day on the Hill is sponsored by the Minnesota Second Chance Coalition, a partnership of Minnesota nonprofits and companies that believe ex-offenders have paid their debt to society and deserve an opportunity to become law-abiding, taxpaying citizens.

Shortly after the rally, HF951 — a bi-partisan bill to restore the right to vote for individuals on probation or parole — was introduced on the Minnesota House floor.

In 2009, with support from the Second Chance Coalition, Minnesota became the second state in the country to pass a statewide Ban-The-Box for public employers. In 2013, Second Chance Coalition helped pass the expansion of Ban-The-Box to include private employers. In 2015, the coalition helped to reform Minnesota's expungement laws. And in 2016, the Coalition helped pass major drug sentencing reform legislation.

This year, the Coalition's focus is:

- Restoring the vote to individuals on probation or parole.
- Providing people seeking to pull themselves out of poverty with opportunities to satisfy accumulated fines and fees from driving-related offenses.
- Reinvesting state funds saved from reducing drug-related incarceration into treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Every one of these bills have had bipartisan support. That was reflected at the 2016 rally, where more than a dozen state lawmakers from both sides of the aisle joined the rally to express their support for second chances for Minnesotans impacted by the criminal justice system.

Fast facts:

- **57,000 Minnesotans need a second chance due to a felony conviction.**
- **82 percent live in the community, hold jobs and pay taxes.**
- **Disenfranchised individuals live throughout the state: 64 percent of Minnesotans with a felony conviction live outside Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Most struggle to find housing and work.**

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The Minnesota Second Chance Coalition is a partnership of over 50 organizations that advocate for fair and responsible laws, policies and practices that allow those who have committed crimes to redeem themselves, fully support themselves and their families, and contribute to their communities to their full potential.