



March 15, 2017

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Stand Up In March For Help For Problem Gambling

Have the conversation with your elected officials and bring help and hope to problem gamblers

One of the most important things you can do during Problem Gambling Awareness Month in March is to advocate for services to help people with gambling problems throughout the year. Advocacy is essential as while the vast majority of Americans gamble without significant consequences at least six million people will experience serious problems with their gambling. And the impact will be felt by their families, colleagues and others in society. However, gambling addiction too often is not seen as a public policy issue, but rather as a personal or individual problem.

Problem gambling touches every corner of our society, afflicting inner cities, suburbs, and rural communities. No age, income or ethnic group is exempt. The vast majority of those dealing with problem gambling are employed. Some of the elderly suffer from addiction as do people in the prime of their lives. Gambling and problem gambling also occur among the young, often at rates exceeding that of adults.

We therefore believe problem gambling services must be available in every state, accessible to all in need and affordable for problem gamblers and their families.

During Problem National Gambling Awareness Month join us in urging Federal, state, tribal and local governments to provide adequate funding for programs to mitigate the costs of gambling addiction.

Call on your members of Congress to support NCPG's IMPACT Gambling Act. This bill clarifies the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) authority to address gambling addiction and formalizes gambling addiction programs at National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Substance Abuse and Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Also ask them to attend Congressional Briefing on Gambling Addiction Among Military and Veterans, Thursday, March 16.

To get help for a gambling problem for you or a loved one, call or text 1-800-522-4700 or chat www.ncpgambling.org/chat. The service is free and confidential and available 24/7. For more information about problem gambling and how to have the conversation, go to www.ncpgambling.org/pgam.

About the National Council on Problem Gambling

The NCPG is a non-profit advocate for programs to help problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and leads state and national stakeholders in the development of comprehensive policy and programs for all those affected by problem gambling. Their vision is to improve health and wellness by reducing the personal, social and economic costs of problem gambling.