

Senate Resolution

Introduced by Senator Glazer

WHEREAS, the month of March 2018 is recognized as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month by the National Council on Problem Gambling (established in 1972) and its thirty-three (33) State Affiliates, including the California Council on Problem Gambling (established in 1986); and

WHEREAS, gambling disorder is not only an addiction, but also a public health issue in which some problem gamblers experience both physical and mental health issues. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, hypertension and diabetes were the most common co-occurring physical health problems among gamblers served in the California State-funded gambling treatment program, while mood disorders (depression, bipolar) were the most commonly reported co-occurring mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, gambling disorder is a treatable disease, and treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to individuals, families and society as a whole. The Office of Problem Gambling and UCLA Gambling Studies Program currently operates the California Gambling Education and Treatment Services (CalGETS) that, since 2010, has provided treatment services to over 13,000 problem gamblers and others affected by a gambling disorder. CalGETS offers a wide array of services ranging from self-help workbooks, to telephone counseling, outpatient and residential care; and

WHEREAS, “gambling disorder” is classified by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as an addiction with similarities to the causes and consequences of alcohol and drug dependence, and is also recognized as the “hidden disease,” as disordered gamblers do not exhibit visible signs of the addiction, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Problem Gambling’s public awareness campaign provoke hope and self-empowerment when seeking treatment for gambling disorder.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Gambling Control within the California Department of Justice, the California Gambling Control Commission, the California State Lottery, California Friday Night Live Partnership, California Gaming Association, Media Solutions, NICOS Chinese Health Coalition, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse and the UCLA Gambling Studies Program have joined with the Office of Problem Gambling within the California Department of Public Health and the California Council on Problem Gambling to raise awareness and urge Californians “Don’t Ignore the Signs” of gambling disorder; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, that March 2018 shall be recognized as Problem Gambling Awareness Month and the agencies and organizations described above be commended for their concerted effort to raise public awareness of problem gambling; and be it further

Resolved, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for distribution.