WHEREAS, problem gambling is a significant public health concern affecting thousands of Louisianans of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in all communities causing a significant societal and economic cost; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness provides individuals in the problem gambling community an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the social and financial effectiveness of services available for problem gambling; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable and treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to both individuals and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a myriad of services are offered, aimed at treating problem gambling, including residential treatment, outpatient and aftercare programs throughout the state, a toll-free Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline 1-877-770-STOP that answers calls from people seeking help with gambling problems and a website aimed at the prevention of problem gambling; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana was one of the first states to have a state funded residential treatment facility, Center of Recovery-CORE in Shreveport, for problem gamblers; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals and organizations have dedicated their efforts to public education about problem gambling, prevention of problem gambling, along with the availability and effectiveness of treatment services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH
in the State of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of March, A.D. 2020.

Governor of Louisiana