

**Introduced by Senator Dodd**

**(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Archuleta, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Glazer, Hueso, Jones, Kamlager, Melendez, Nielsen, Portantino, Rubio, and Wilk)**

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Senate Resolution No. 70—Relative to Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

1       WHEREAS, The month of March 2022 is recognized as National  
2 Problem Gambling Awareness Month by the National Council on  
3 Problem Gambling, which was established in 1972, and its 37 state  
4 affiliates, including the California Council on Problem Gambling,  
5 which was established in 1986; and

6       WHEREAS, Gambling disorder is not only an addiction, but  
7 also a public health issue in which some problem gamblers  
8 experience both physical and mental health issues. During the  
9 2020–21 fiscal year, hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and elevated  
10 tobacco use were the most common cooccurring physical health  
11 problems among clients served in the California state-funded  
12 gambling treatment program, while mood disorders, including  
13 depression and bipolar disorder, and anxiety were the most  
14 commonly reported cooccurring mental health issues; and

15       WHEREAS, Gambling disorder is a treatable disease, and  
16 treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to individuals,  
17 families, and society as a whole. The Office of Problem Gambling  
18 and the UCLA Gambling Studies Program currently operate the  
19 California Gambling Education and Treatment Services (CalGETS)  
20 program that, since 2009, has provided treatment services to over  
21 17,000 problem gamblers and others affected by a gambling  
22 disorder. CalGETS offers a wide array of services ranging from

1 self-help workbooks, telephone counseling, and outpatient and  
2 residential care; and

3 WHEREAS, Gambling disorder is classified by the American  
4 Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the  
5 causes and consequences of alcohol and drug dependence, and is  
6 also recognized as the “hidden disease,” as disordered gamblers  
7 do not exhibit visible signs of the addiction; and

8 WHEREAS, The Office of Problem Gambling’s public  
9 awareness campaign promotes hope and self-empowerment for  
10 individuals seeking treatment for a gambling disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Gambling Control within the  
12 Department of Justice, the California Gambling Control  
13 Commission, the California State Lottery, California Friday Night  
14 Live Partnership, California Gaming Association, Media Solutions,  
15 NICOS Chinese Health Coalition, National Asian Pacific American  
16 Families Against Substance Abuse, the UCLA Gambling Studies  
17 Program, Pechanga Development Corporation, California  
18 Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals, and the  
19 recovery community have joined with the Office of Problem  
20 Gambling and the California Council on Problem Gambling to  
21 raise awareness and urge Californians to take the first step by  
22 seeking help for gambling-related problems; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That March*  
24 *2022 is hereby recognized as Problem Gambling Awareness Month*  
25 *in California and the agencies and organizations described in this*  
26 *resolution are commended for their concerted effort to raise public*  
27 *awareness of problem gambling; and be it further*

28 *Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of*  
29 *this resolution to the author for distribution.*