Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers join in recognizing March 2023 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month, which brings attention to a significant public health issue that affects people of all ages, races, cultures, and professions; and

Whereas, New York’s Responsible Play Partnership (RPP) was formed between the New York State Gaming Commission, New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and the New York Council on Problem Gambling to address problem gambling by promoting resources and activities that help build awareness of problem gambling and its impact as a personal, economic, and societal issue; the RPP ensures that gambling venues comply with all rules and regulations and undertakes proper outreach measures, reevaluates self-exclusion policies to ensure consistency, and considers the best ways to advance New York State’s long-term commitment to prevent and treat problem gambling and gambling disorder; and

Whereas, the RPP continues to coordinate the prevention, treatment, and recovery expertise of New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports with the regulatory authority and Responsible Gaming accreditation of the New York State Gaming Commission, and the advocacy and educational proficiency of the New York Council on Problem Gambling; and

Whereas, during this month, individuals, professionals, and organizations throughout New York State are called upon to renew their shared commitment to educating the public about problem gambling, the effectiveness of prevention efforts, and the availability of treatment services, so that hope for recovery reaches people in communities across the State; and

Whereas, the RPP continues to develop new strategies to meet the needs of individuals suffering from problem gambling and make services available where they live; the opening of seven Problem Gambling Resource Centers that serve as regional hubs to coordinate referrals for problem gambling services and to collaborate with local gambling treatment programs, ensure that information and referrals are available to local residents in need of help; and

Whereas, New Yorkers, who may be affected by problem gambling now have multiple options for accessing confidential help and hope 24/7, either by calling 1-877-8-HOPENY, texting HOPENY (467569), or by visiting nyproblemgamblinghelp.org for information or referral for treatment of a gambling problem; and

Whereas, New York State joins with the Responsible Play Partnership in encouraging all residents to support the goals of Problem Gambling Awareness Month by participating in social media awareness with their social networks and/or visiting the Facebook and Twitter pages of the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports, the New York State Gaming Commission, and the New York Council on Problem Gambling to help spread the word that problem gambling is a public health issue that can be effectively addressed through consistent prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State and encourage all citizens to help spread the message that there is help and hope for those who are affected by problem gambling and their loved ones.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-three.

[Signature]
Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh