

State of New Jersey

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse PO Box 345 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0345

NEIL VAN ESS Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Month of March, 2020 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in New Jersey

September 15, 2020

WHEREAS, approximately 2 million U.S. adults (1% of the population) are estimated to meet criteria for gambling disorder. Another 4-6 million (2-3%) are considered to meet criteria for problem gambling. And yet for many residents of the US, gambling remains a hidden addiction; and,

WHEREAS, March 2020 theme is "Awareness + Action," an effort by the National Council on Problem Gambling and State affiliates, including the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey (CCGNJ), all about taking action and having conversations about problem gambling issues and directing people to the help they may need; and,

WHEREAS, "Awareness + Action," grassroots campaign brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including public health organizations, treatment providers, advocacy groups and gambling working collaboratively to let people know that hope and help exist; and,

WHEREAS, problem gambling leads to financial, emotional, social, occupational and physical harms, yet many cases go undetected due to limited assessment, and so Problem Gambling Month 2020 included a March 10th Gambling Disorder Screening Day to support healthcare providers in identifying a gambling disorder; and,

WHEREAS, online gambling increases risk for adolescent problem gamblers, who are also significantly more likely than others to skip school, as well as engage in substance use and abuse and other risky behaviors; and,

WHEREAS, those struggling with problem gambling don't have to be alone, support is available, and they can benefit from programs, such as those provided by CCGNJ, that bring great value to prevention efforts by helping to treat and prevent gambling addiction, including 1-800-Gambler for calls and texts; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy has signed a proclamation making March 2020 "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in New Jersey.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse hereby recognizes March 2020 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Phil Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors, and County Alliance Coordinators.

Van Ess, Acting Chairman

<u>4-15-2020</u>

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor