



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Green Bay, WI (March 2, 2020) - For the 15th year, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling in collaboration with the National Council on Problem Gambling dedicates March to helping people “have the conversation” about problem gambling. Approximately 2 million (1%) of U.S. adults are estimated to meet criteria for pathological gambling, another 4-6 million (2-3%) would be considered problem gamblers; yet for many, gambling remains a hidden addiction.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month is designed to help raise awareness of the prevention, treatment and recovery services available for those adversely affected by gambling. The grassroots campaign brings together a wide range of stakeholders - public health organizations, advocacy groups, the Wisconsin Lottery and gambling operators who work collaboratively to let people know that hope and help exist. “Across Wisconsin groups hold conferences, host screening and training days, run media campaigns, and conduct outreach to people who can make a difference in ensuring that problem gambling services are widely available and accessible,” said Rose Blozinski, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling.

As March Madness reaches a crescendo with an estimated \$10 billion in bets placed on the NCAA basketball championship games, calls to the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-GAMBLE-5) and to the National Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-522-4700) spike an average of 30% during the month.

“One of our goals this year is to provide information to all financial professionals working with people who are at risk to become problem gamblers throughout the state of Wisconsin” says Blozinski. “We sent out two hundred and eighty-three packets of information about gambling disorder, how it impacts loved ones, how to have a conversation with someone about gambling disorder, where to find resources, and where to find help.”

To get help for a gambling problem for you or a loved one, call 1-800-GAMBLE-5. The call is free and confidential. For more information about problem gambling and how to have the conversation, go to www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 1-850-888-HOPE Textline, and Chat available on www.wi-problemgamblers.org, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families. For more information, visit the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>

About the National Council on Problem Gambling

NCPG is the national advocate for problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gaming. For more information on the 32nd National Conference on Problem Gambling, visit www.ncpgambling.org/conference.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, Text at 1-850-888-Hope or Live Chat through the WCPG website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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