

***Betting on the Big Game isn’t the Answer for Problem Gamblers***

WCPG urges caution as the Super Bowl approaches

**For Immediate Release                                                                                                           February 2, 2016**

(Green Bay, WI) – The sports world turns its attention to the San Francisco area this week with Super Bowl 50 set for Sunday at Levi’s Stadium. The Lombardi Trophy is on the line as Carolina and Denver square off. It is also ***THE*** biggest wagering day of the year in the U.S.

Rose Gruber, Executive Director of the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://wi-problemgamblers.org/) (WCPG) says the culmination of the pro football season can be real challenge for those dealing with an addition to gambling.

“The Super Bowl can be very difficult for those who are problem or compulsive gamblers,” Gruber says. “Problem gamblers often look at the big game as a last chance to cover the losses from a long football season. Most of them, however, will only lose more. Our Helpline usually sees an increase in calls right after the Super Bowl.”

WCPG is a statewide organization with a mission of educating and promoting public understanding of problem gambling and the disorder of compulsive gambling, while maintaining neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. WCPG operates a Problem Gambling Helpline that is available 24/7 as a resource for anyone facing a gambling problem. The WCPG Helpline last year received 14,690 calls, just short of the record number of calls received in 2014.

Gruber adds that the impact of problem goes beyond the money for most problem or compulsive gamblers. “When problem gamblers reach out for help, they’ve typically lost thousands of dollars with significant impacts on families, friends and even their workplace,” Gruber says. “We see it often that family members aren’t even aware of the gambling addiction and debt until it’s a very bad situation.”

***If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 or Live Chat through the WCPG website at*** [***www.wi-problemgamblers.org***](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org)***.***

###

*The* [***Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling***](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org/) *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, 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.wi-problemgamblers.org/) *website, visit us on Facebook at* [*www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling*](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling) *or follow us on Twitter at* [*https://twitter.com/wcpgambling*](https://twitter.com/wcpgambling)

**Media Contact**:

Scott Stein

[Leonard & Finco Public Relations](http://www.lfpublicrelations.com/)

(920) 676-0711

sstein@LFpublicrelations.com