



The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc Joins Campaign to Raise Awareness About the Risks of Youth Gambling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2022

CONTACT:

Rose Blozinski, Executive Director
Rose@wi-problemgamblers.org
1-920-437-8888

Green Bay, WI – The [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG) today announced its commitment as a Non-Lottery participant of the 2022 Gift Responsibly Campaign, joining lotteries and community organizations across the country and around the world to raise awareness about the risks of buying lottery tickets for children. The campaign is organized by the [National Council on Problem Gambling](#) (NCPG) and the [International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors](#) at McGill University.

Research shows that the earlier a person’s participation or even exposure to gambling is in childhood, the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem later in life. Gambling exposure during childhood is often through some kind of lottery product, given by an adult who is likely unaware of the associated risks.

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling encourages adults not to give lottery tickets to underage children/teens as holiday gifts – many problem gamblers report that they began gambling during childhood. “Problem gambling is a growing concern among adolescents. We feel it’s important to let parents, grandparents and others know that lottery tickets are not a good gift choice for children”, says Rose Blozinski, WCPG Executive Director.

The WCPG has signed on to the campaign as a Non-Lottery participant. During November and December WCPG will work to raise awareness about the risks of youth gambling by public service announcements, social media, in-person school presentations, video presentations, etc...

“Youth problem gambling has emerged as a significant and growing public health issue. We applaud the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling’s commitment to raising awareness about risks of youth gambling through the Gift Responsibly Campaign,” said Keith Whyte, NCPG Executive Director. “Our message is a simple one: lottery tickets are never appropriate gifts for children.”

The WCPG has been an affiliate of the NCPG since 1994. Rose Blozinski has served on the National Board two different terms. Each term for several years. WCPG staff served on several committees over the years. WCPG has hosted the National Conference in 2012. The WCPG works in unison with the NCPG to promote awareness of gambling disorders and responsible gambling.

About the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling

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, Textline at 1-850-888-HOPE, 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/wcpqgambling>

About the National Council on Problem Gambling

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is neutral on legalized gambling. Based in Washington DC, NCPG is the only national nonprofit organization that seeks to minimize the economic and social costs associated with gambling addiction. If you or someone you know may have a gambling problem, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline, which offers hope and help without stigma or shame. Call or text 1-800-GAMBLER or visit www.1800gamblerchat.org. Help is available 24/7 – it is free and confidential.

About International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University

For over 20 years, the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviours at McGill University has been at the forefront of leading-edge research aimed at identifying and understanding the critical factors related to youth gambling issues.

###