

**Introduced by Senators Berryhill, Block, Cannella, Gaines, Hall,
Hill, McGuire, and Vidak**

March 25, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 20—Relative to Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, The month of March 2015 is recognized as National
2 Problem Gambling Awareness Month by the National Council on
3 Problem Gambling (established in 1972) and its 37 State Affiliates,
4 including the California Council on Problem Gambling (established
5 in 1986); and

6 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is not only an addiction, but
7 also a public health issue in which some problem gamblers and
8 others are affected by problem gambling behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a treatable disease, and
10 treatment is effective at minimizing the harm to individuals,
11 families, and society as a whole. The Office of Problem Gambling
12 and UCLA Gambling Studies Program currently operate the
13 California Gambling Education and Treatment Services
14 (CalGETS), which, since 2010, has provided treatment services
15 to over 7,000 problem gamblers and others affected by a gambling
16 disorder. While many individuals have received help, only a limited
17 number of individuals affected by problem gambling seek treatment
18 options and utilize existing problem gambling programs; and

19 WHEREAS, “Gambling disorder” is classified by the American
20 Psychiatric Association (APA) as an addiction with similarities to
21 the causes and consequences of alcohol and drug dependence; and

22 WHEREAS, Gambling disorder has been recognized as the
23 “hidden disease,” since compulsive gamblers do not exhibit visible

1 signs in the way individuals with other addictions, such as
2 substance abuse disorders, do; and

3 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Gambling Control within the
4 Department of Justice, the California Gambling Control
5 Commission, the California State Lottery, California Friday Night
6 Live Partnership, California Gaming Association, the California
7 Tribal Business Alliance, Media Solutions, NICOS Chinese Health
8 Coalition, National Asian Pacific American Families Against
9 Substance Abuse, and the UCLA Gambling Studies Program have
10 joined with the Office of Problem Gambling within the State
11 Department of Public Health and the California Council on
12 Problem Gambling to raise awareness and urge Californians “Don’t
13 ignore the signs” of gambling disorder; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
15 recognizes the month of March 2015 as National Problem
16 Gambling Awareness Month, and the agencies and organizations
17 described above be commended for their concerted effort to raise
18 public awareness of problem gambling; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.