

**Introduced by Senators Berryhill, Block, Gaines, Galgiani, Glazer,
Hall, Hill, Hueso, McGuire, Runner, and Vidak**

March 9, 2016

Senate Resolution No. 68—Relative to National Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, The month of March 2016 is recognized as National
2 Problem Gambling Awareness Month by the National Council on
3 Problem Gambling, which was established in 1972, and its 32 state
4 affiliates, including the California Council on Problem Gambling,
5 which was established in 1986; and

6 WHEREAS, “Gambling disorder” is not only an addiction, but
7 also a public health issue in which some problem gamblers
8 experience both physical and mental health issues. Studies have
9 shown that problem gamblers are more likely to have hypertension,
10 seek emergency department treatment, and not have a primary care
11 physician; and

12 WHEREAS, “Gambling disorder” is a treatable disease, and
13 treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to individuals,
14 families, and society as a whole. The Office of Problem Gambling
15 and the UCLA Gambling Studies Program currently operates the
16 California Gambling Education and Treatment Services (CalGETS)
17 that, since 2010, has provided treatment services to over 10,000
18 problem gamblers and others affected by a gambling disorder.
19 CalGETS offers a wide array of services ranging from self-help
20 workbooks, telephone counseling, and outpatient through
21 residential care; and

22 WHEREAS, “Gambling disorder” is classified by the American
23 Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the
24 causes and consequences of alcohol and drug dependence, and is

1 also recognized as the “hidden disease,” as disordered gamblers
2 do not exhibit visible signs of the addiction; and

3 WHEREAS, The Office of Problem Gambling’s public
4 awareness campaign “Don’t Ignore the Signs” indicates that some
5 of the signs of gambling disorder may be depression, anxiety,
6 relationship issues, shame, guilt, lies, loneliness, and debt; and

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

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That March
19 2016 shall be recognized as National Problem Gambling Awareness
20 Month and the agencies and organizations described above be
21 commended for their concerted effort to raise public awareness of
22 problem gambling; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for distribution.