

Senate Resolution No. 68

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

Relative to National Problem Gambling Awareness Month

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

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

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

WHEREAS, “Gambling disorder” is classified by the American Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the causes and consequences of alcohol and drug dependence, and is also recognized as the “hidden disease,” as disordered gamblers do not exhibit visible signs of the addiction; and

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

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Gambling Control within the Department of Justice, the California Gambling Control Commission, the California

State Lottery, California Friday Night Live Partnership, California Gaming Association, Media Solutions, NICOS Chinese Health Coalition, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, and the UCLA Gambling Studies Program have joined the Office of Problem Gambling within the State Department of Public Health and the California Council on Problem Gambling to raise awareness and urge Californians to “Don’t Ignore the Signs” of gambling disorder; now, therefore, be it

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

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

Senate Resolution No. 68 read and adopted by the Senate March 17, 2016.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate