



NEWS RELEASE

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March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

TOPEKA, KAN. – The Kansas Lottery, in collaboration with the National Council on Problem Gambling, dedicates the month of March to raising awareness about problem gambling. Governor Kelly officially designated March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in 2019.

The campaign theme “Awareness + Action” is all about taking specific action and having conversations about problem gambling issues and directing people to the help they may need. Approximately 2 million U.S. adults (1 percent of the population) are estimated to meet criteria for gambling disorder. Another 4-6 million (2-3 percent) are considered to meet criteria for problem gambling. And yet, for many residents of the United States, gambling remains a hidden addiction.

“Awareness is the first step to getting help for a problem gambling addiction,” said Stephen Durrell, Executive Director for the Kansas Lottery. “No one should play the lottery if they have issues with playing responsibly, are underage, or if they cannot afford to. We want all of our players to know that those who need assistance can find help at no cost, in Kansas and nationwide, and they should not be afraid or embarrassed to reach out to those who can help.”

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Kansas Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700. Calls are free and confidential, and no-cost treatment is available to problem gamblers and other individuals concerned about problem gamblers who live in Kansas. For more information about problem gambling and available resources in Kansas, visit <http://www.ksgamblinghelp.com/>.