



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, a growing public health concern, problem gambling is often an undetected and untreated addiction that can result in financial, emotional, social, occupational, and physical harm; moreover, it can have permanent devastating consequences for individuals, families, friends and others in their lives who are impacted; and

Whereas, problem gambling can affect New Yorkers of all ages, races, cultures, professions, and socioeconomic backgrounds; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) has a full continuum of services in prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction to specifically address gambling disorders; and

Whereas, in the Fall of 2023, the Problem Gambling Bureau was established within the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Division of OASAS to focus exclusively on problem gambling awareness and the expansion of access to services across the state; and

Whereas, to strengthen the collaborative efforts of stakeholders, New York State's Responsible Play Partnership (RPP) was formed among OASAS, the New York State Gaming Commission, and the New York Council on Problem Gambling; the RPP coordinates the prevention, treatment, and recovery expertise of these resources to help build awareness of problem gambling and its impact as a personal, economic, and societal issue; the RPP also ensures that gaming venues comply with all rules and regulations and provides access to help for individuals in need through outreach measures; and

Whereas, New Yorkers who may be affected by problem gambling have several options for accessing confidential help by calling the state's toll-free 24/7 HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY, texting HOPENY (467369), or visiting nyproblemgamblinghelp.org for information or referral for treatment; and

Whereas, Problem Gambling Awareness Month encourages New Yorkers to develop an understanding of this issue and to become aware of ways to identify and help someone they know who might be impacted; we ask everyone to be an advocate of the theme, "S.E.E. the Light" – Support, Educate, and Engage to reduce gambling harm by participating in social media awareness through their social networks and/or visiting the Facebook and Twitter pages of OASAS; and

Whereas, March 12th is Gambling Disorder Screening Day, which supports and encourages providers to offer screening services for Gambling Disorder in a variety of settings; on this day, New York State brings attention to gambling disorders as a public health issue with the lighting of state landmarks in yellow and by recognizing the importance of screening services as the first step in helping oneself and others;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State and encourage everyone to help spread the message that there is *help* and *hope* for those who are affected by problem gambling through prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this fifth day of March in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Kathy Hochul
Governor



Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh