



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5610/1
CMH:amn&ahe

2017 SENATE RESOLUTION 8

March 22, 2018 - Introduced by Senator L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** designating March 2018 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, two million Americans are diagnosed as pathological gamblers and
3 another four to six million experience interferences in life due to problem gambling;
4 and

5 Whereas, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling estimates that roughly
6 333,000 Wisconsin residents have a gambling problem; and

7 Whereas, problem gambling disproportionately affects ethnic-minority and
8 low-income populations; and

9 Whereas, children and teenagers are more susceptible to problem gambling in
10 an environment that condones the behavior; and

11 Whereas, individuals with existing addiction issues are at a higher risk of
12 developing a gambling addiction; and

13 Whereas, the Problem Gambling Prevention Technical Assistance and Training
14 Project states that problem gambling can be a negative coping mechanism as it is

1 more prevalent among groups that experienced trauma, such as veterans,
2 immigrants, and refugees; and

3 Whereas, lack of awareness and discussion about problem gambling
4 perpetuates the silent suffering of addicts in terms of psychological and financial
5 well-being; and

6 Whereas, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling reveals that gamblers
7 on average incur \$38,090 in debts; and

8 Whereas, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling states that 65 percent
9 of gamblers commit crimes to finance their addiction; and

10 Whereas, stress from problem gambling could lead to physical and mental
11 health issues, including suicidal ideation; and

12 Whereas, problem gambling is a social issue as it impairs relationships and
13 worsens the economic situations of families; and

14 Whereas, the legislature has an opportunity to raise awareness of problem
15 gambling as a harm to our community; now, therefore, be it

16 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the legislature hereby proclaims March 2018
17 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

18 (END)