



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

**Topeka** – The Kansas Lottery, in partnership with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), is proud to recognize March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM). This year's theme, "Seeking Understanding," focuses on increasing awareness of problem gambling as a serious but often misunderstood mental health condition. The campaign seeks to foster greater awareness and empathy, break down barriers to treatment, and provide support for individuals and families impacted by gambling-related harm.

Problem gambling, defined as gambling behaviors that disrupt or damage personal, family, or professional lives, affects millions of Americans. Nationally, approximately 2.5 million U.S. adults meet the criteria for a severe gambling problem, with an additional 5-8 million individuals experiencing mild to moderate gambling problems.

The annual observance of Problem Gambling Awareness Month provides an essential platform for organizations across the country to highlight the availability of resources that support problem gambling prevention, education, treatment, and recovery.

Throughout March, the Kansas Lottery will implement various activities to educate the community and spark meaningful conversations around problem gambling. Planned events include:

- Multiple Social Media Posts with Engaging Prompts and Information
- Awareness Campaign through player loyalty program and mobile app
- Public Information Campaign with Information on Resources

The Kansas Lottery encourages local media and community organizations to join this important conversation by sharing information and highlighting available resources.

For more information about problem gambling and how to increase awareness of problem gambling, visit <http://www.ncpgambling.org/FAQs>.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call or text the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER or visit [www.1800gamblerchat.org](http://www.1800gamblerchat.org). Help is available 24/7/365 – it is free and confidential.

### **About Kansas Lottery**

In November of 1986, 64 percent of Kansas voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the creation of a state lottery. The Kansas Legislature passed the "Kansas Lottery Act" in 1987, and the Kansas Lottery was established. The mission of the Kansas Lottery is to produce the maximum amount of revenue possible for the State of Kansas while ensuring the integrity of all games.

The Kansas Lottery sells \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$30, and \$50 scratch tickets and \$1 and \$2 instant pull tab games. In addition, Kansas Lottery players enjoy Powerball, Mega Millions, Lotto America, Lucky for Life, Super Kansas Cash, Pick 3, 2by2, Keno and Racetrax draw games, as well as Fast Play games. Kansas Lottery products are sold at approximately 1,750 retail locations.

The Kansas Lottery is headed by an Executive Director who is appointed by the governor.

### **About the National Council on Problem Gambling**

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is the only national nonprofit organization in the US that seeks to mitigate gambling-related harm. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling. If you or someone you know may have a gambling problem, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline, which offers hope and help without stigma or shame. US and Canadian users can call 1-800-GAMBLER, text 800GAM, or visit [www.1800gamblerchat.org](http://www.1800gamblerchat.org). Help is available 24/7 – it is free and confidential.