



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Rachelle Alongi](#), Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling
360.352.6133 | www.evergreencpg.org

MARCH IS NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

Evergreen Council and fellow affiliates offer problem gambling awareness throughout nation

OLYMPIA, WA— Washington State Governor Jay Inslee and a number of other governors throughout the country have proclaimed March as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month (NPGAM). The goals of NPGAM include educating the public on problem gambling and gambling addiction, the signs and symptoms of problem gambling, how to gamble responsibly, and where to go for help.

Problem gambling is a progressive disorder and can lead to devastating effects for both the problem gambler and his or her loved ones. It is estimated that eight to 10 people whose loved ones have a gambling problem will also struggle with financial, emotional, and physical issues as a result of the disorder. As the need to gamble increases, a problem gambler may jeopardize their relationships, job, mental and physical health, finances, and more.

“Gambling becomes a serious problem when one has the inability to stop,” says Keith Whyte, Executive Director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. “A problem gambler loses control and cannot stick to limits, even when gambling is causing serious financial, family, work, or other problems.”

In addition to participating in the NPGAM campaign (more information can be found at www.npgam.org), ECPG Executive Director Maureen Greeley and Psychologist Dr. Chuck Maurer were guests on *New Day Northwest* on Wednesday, March 12 to discuss problem gambling as an addiction and public health concern. Watch the show at <http://bit.ly/1hgwFrJ>.

“Problem Gambling Awareness Month is the perfect time to raise awareness and help answer questions,” says ECPG Executive Director Maureen Greeley. “It’s time to bring problem gambling out of the shadows as a hidden addiction and help people understand it is a significant public health issue that impacts relationships, families, work places, and entire communities.”

If you would like to participate in or would like more information about NPGAM, please contact [Rachelle Alongi](#). If you or a loved one has a gambling problem, there is hope. Help starts today by calling **1.800.547.6133**.

ABOUT ECPG:

The Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling provides treatment, training, and awareness programs and services about problem and responsible gambling. ECPG provides statewide confidential support through its 24-hour Problem Gambling Helpline (**800.547.6133**) and public awareness, education, prevention, and resource development services for individuals, families, employers, the gaming industry, and business and community groups.

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, March 2014, is National Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that nationally a minimum of 5 million individuals are either problem or pathological gamblers; and

WHEREAS, thousands of adults and adolescents in Washington State have experienced severe gambling problems during their lives; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and treatment availability have been proven to limit the rate of problem gambling in Washington and other states; and

WHEREAS, the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling is a nonprofit organization working to increase public awareness of problem gambling, train treatment providers and gambling industry personnel to address it, and enhance the availability of treatment services for problem gamblers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the gambling industry and the treatment and recovery communities join together to increase public awareness of problem gambling and to take measures to address this addiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 2014 as

Problem Gambling Awareness Month

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 6th day of February, 2014


Governor Jay Inslee

