

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health issue with research indicating it affects 6 to 8 million adults and 1 million youth in America of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds; and

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

WHEREAS, problem gambling has a significant societal and economic cost for individuals, families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling/gambling disorder is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing this harm to both individuals and society as a whole; and

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

WHEREAS, it is important that the gambling industry and the mental health, primary care, treatment, nonprofit support services, and recovery communities join together to increase public awareness of problem gambling and its high co-occurrence with anxiety and substance use disorders, and to take measures to address this addiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

Problem Gambling Awareness Month

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

Signed this 15th day of January, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

