

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-189

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2024

To declare the month of March, 2024 as “Problem Gambling Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia and to recognize the importance of raising awareness of problem gambling as a critical public health issue impacting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds.

WHEREAS, March is designated as Problem Gambling Awareness Month by the National Council on Problem Gambling;

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

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling estimates that between 12,000 and 15,000 District residents are affected by gambling addiction, with limited resources available for those seeking help;

WHEREAS, in 2023, the National Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800 GAMBLER) received 6,572 calls, texts, and chats from the District;

WHEREAS, individuals with gambling problems face increased risks of suicide, drug or alcohol dependence, and bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable, and effective treatment can significantly reduce harm to both individuals and society as a whole.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Problem Gambling Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of 2024.”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the importance of addressing problem gambling as a public health issue and pledges to support efforts to prevent, intervene, and treat problem gambling within the District and declares March, 2024 as “Problem Gambling Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.