SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION AND VETERANS

TEXAS LOTTERY JOINS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE
PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

(AUSTIN) – The Texas Lottery will once again join the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) in dedicating March to increasing awareness about problem gambling. Now in its 18th year, Problem Gambling Awareness Month is a grassroots campaign that brings together a wide range of stakeholders – public health organizations, advocacy groups and gambling operators – who work collaboratively to let people know that prevention, treatment and recovery services are available.

"Texas Lottery products are intended to be a form of entertainment for our players with the purpose of supporting public education and Texas veterans, and should always be played responsibly," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. "During Problem Gambling Awareness Month, we take this opportunity to emphasize our commitment to encouraging the responsible play of our games and to raise awareness of the prevention, treatment and recovery services available for those adversely affected by gambling."

According to the NCPG, most adults who chose to gamble are able to do so responsibly. However, approximately 2 million (1 percent) U.S. adults are estimated to meet criteria for a gambling disorder and another 4-6 million (2-3 percent) are considered to meet criteria for problem gambling. This year's campaign theme, "Awareness + Action", focuses on taking action and having conversations about problem gambling issues and directing people to the help they may need.

The Texas Lottery is a Silver Member of NCPG and encourages responsible gambling throughout the year. The Texas Lottery provides problem gambling awareness training for retailers, employees and vendors and makes resource information available through the dedicated PLAY RESPONSIBLY page on its website and printed brochures available at claim centers and lottery retail locations. The Texas Lottery includes the PLAY RESPONSIBLY message as well as the NCPG website on its tickets. In addition, the Texas Lottery prominently incorporates the PLAY RESPONSIBLY message on its advertisements across a variety of digital platforms. Responsible gaming messages are featured in employee communications and on the Texas Lottery's official social media accounts. The 2020 Problem Gambling Awareness Month messages will be featured on the Texas Lottery's social media accounts, website, in-store electronic messaging and in the retailer newsletter throughout the month of March.

(more)

To get help for a gambling problem for you or someone you know, call or text the national helpline at 800-522-4700. The call is free and confidential. For more information about problem gambling go to www.ncpgambling.org/pgam or www.txlottery.org/playresponsibly .

About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated more than $30 billion in revenue for the state and distributed $63 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed $24.6 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Since the first veterans' themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than $128 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball®, Mega Millions®, Lotto Texas®, All or Nothing™, Texas Two Step®, Pick 3™, Daily 4™, Cash Five® and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at www.txlottery.org. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

Editors/News Directors, note: The Problem Gambling Awareness Month logo is attached in JPEG format.

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