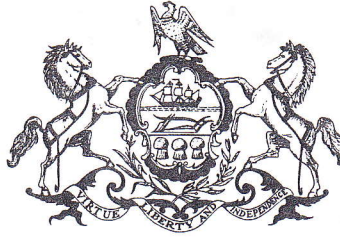


PATRICK J. HARKINS, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Patrick Harkins *P.J.H.*

SUBJECT: Resolution designating March 1 through 7, 2011, as "Problem Gambling Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania

In the near future, I intend to introduce a resolution designating March 1 through 7, 2011, as "Problem Gambling Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania in coordination with the National Council of Problem Gambling (NCPG). This year marks the ninth annual "National Problem Gambling Awareness Week" campaign which aims to educate the public about the impact of problem gambling and the availability of treatment.

According to NCPG, problem gambling includes all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt or damage personal, family or vocational pursuits. The essential features are increasing preoccupation with gambling, a need to bet more money more frequently, restlessness or irritability when attempting to stop, "chasing" losses, and loss of control manifested by continuation of the gambling behavior in spite of mounting, serious, negative consequences. In extreme cases, problem gambling can result in financial ruin, legal problems, loss of career and family, or even suicide. Nationally, an estimated four to six million people are problem gamblers.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Terra Heilman in my office by e-mail at theilman@pahouse.net.

JAN 18 2011