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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### ***‘Minor’ Holiday Message About Lottery Tickets*** *Lottery Scratchers® should NOT be given to anyone under 18*

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Lottery today reminds everyone that although the holiday shopping scramble is well underway, Scratchers, or *any kind* of Lottery ticket, should NOT be gifted to minors.

“Even though our Scratchers games in particular are a lot of fun, they are not toys,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “Lottery games should be considered adults only. No one younger than 18 is legally allowed to purchase Lottery tickets, play them, or claim prizes.”

The California Lottery is partnering with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and McGill University’s International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors in getting the word out about gifting responsibly this holiday season. It’s also part of a larger effort to raise awareness about the serious issue of youth gambling.

In addition to reaching players, the California Lottery firmly reminds its more than 23,000 retail partners that selling Lottery products to anyone under 18 is strictly prohibited by law.

The California Lottery strives to uphold the highest standards for the sale of our products and have a [Commitment to Responsible Gaming](#). We were even the first lottery in the country to receive the highest certification and recertification from the World Lottery Association (WLA) for responsible gaming efforts.

The message is simple: Gift responsibly during the holiday season. Don’t give kids Scratchers. We remind adult players to enjoy our games responsibly.

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*The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transferred to public education totaled more than \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely nondiscretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated almost \$8.4 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800- GAMBLER.*

[www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com)