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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### California Lottery Highlights National Problem Gambling Awareness Month

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Lottery proudly announces its support and participation in National Problem Gambling Awareness Month, which takes place every March.

As part of this effort, the California Lottery joins the California Department of Public Health's [Office of Problem Gambling](#) and other responsible gaming advocates to promote awareness of gambling disorders and the availability of treatment and recovery programs. No-cost, confidential help for problem gambling is available by calling **1-800-GAMBLER**, texting **SUPPORT** to **53342**, or by visiting **800gambler.chat** for online support.

The Lottery supports this initiative through special messaging on California Lottery tickets, at stores where Lottery tickets are sold, as well as through paid advertising and content on the Lottery's digital platforms.

"This is an important conversation for us to be a part of," said Lottery Director Alva V. Johnson. "The Lottery's mission is to generate supplemental funding for California public schools, and this gives us an opportunity to remind everyone that Lottery is a form of entertainment, and people should play safely and responsibly."

These efforts to support Problem Gambling Awareness Month are a significant part of the California Lottery's responsible gaming program that has been internationally recognized with the highest certification by the World Lottery Association. To learn more

about the California Lottery's Responsible Gaming Program visit [www.calottery.com/play-responsibly](http://www.calottery.com/play-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)