WHEREAS: Problem gambling is a public health concern potentially impacting more than 264,000 Oregonians of all ages and backgrounds in all communities, with significant personal, social, health, and financial repercussions; and

WHEREAS: Problem gambling is estimated to cost Oregonians more than $500 million every year in higher rates of bankruptcy, loss of relationships, loss of productivity in the work force, criminal activity, and other mental health and addiction problems; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of Oregonians have successfully sought treatment; are in recovery, along with their families; and have benefited from the expertise of professionals in the treatment field who are dedicated to helping people recover from problem gambling; and

WHEREAS: Oregon is dedicated to reducing the negative effects of gambling for all Oregonians through balanced policies and effective systems of problem gambling services, such as targeted prevention programs and treatment services; and

WHEREAS: The World Lottery Association has recognized Oregon as a worldwide leader in responsible gaming.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim March 2021 to be

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, February 22, 2021.

Kate Brown, Governor

Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State