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## **TEXAS LOTTERY COMMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK**

(Austin) – Communities nationwide will observe National Problem Gambling Awareness Week (NPGAW) March 7-13. The Texas Lottery Commission announced today that the agency has joined the education and awareness efforts.

“This annual event attempts to increase awareness of the consequences of problem gambling and the availability of treatment,” said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief.

“We are proud to take part in this worthy initiative. As always, we remind our players to enjoy our products responsibly and seek help when playing the lottery becomes more than a game.”

Charitable Bingo Operations Division Director Phil Sanderson also reminded Bingo players to watch for signs of trouble. “Charitable Bingo provides important funds for worthy causes in Texas, but no cause is worth the cost of problem gambling. If you think that you or someone you know may have a problem, we encourage you to seek out the help and resources you need.”

(more)

**(Texas Lottery Commission News Release, continued)**

The warning signs of problem gambling may include the following:

- A preoccupation with gambling
- Gambling to win back what you have lost
- Lying to cover up gambling
- Jeopardizing or losing relationships, jobs, education and/or other opportunities because of gambling

Anyone with concerns about this issue can reach a nationwide problem gambling help line at 1-800-522-4700. Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additional information about NPGAW can be found at **[www.npgaw.org](http://www.npgaw.org)**.

Texas Lottery<sup>®</sup> tickets and brochures feature the agency's "Play Responsibly" message. In addition, the "Play Responsibly" page online offers links to a variety of resources. For more information, please visit the official Texas Lottery website at **[www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org)** or call 1-800-37LOTTO (1-800-375-6886) to speak to a customer service representative.

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