



Massachusetts Council on  
**Compulsive Gambling**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK -- MARCH 6-12**

*2006 Campaign Reaches Out to Massachusetts High Schools*

**BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS** – Governor Mitt Romney has joined the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling to proclaim March 6-12, 2006, Problem Gambling Awareness Week. The goal of the campaign is to increase public awareness about the disorder, and promote the availability of problem gambling treatment services for people in the Commonwealth who are experiencing problems with their own or a loved one's gambling.

"For many people, recreational gambling is not a problem. For others, it is a serious problem with potentially devastating social, financial and emotional consequences," said Marlene Warner, Program Director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling. "Symptoms of a gambling problem may include being preoccupied with gambling; repeated unsuccessful attempts to stop or control gambling; and chasing losses," she said.

Problem gambling is an increasing issue for students with limited access to money, unlimited access to the Internet, and high tolerance for risk. That is why the Council has selected to target its Problem Gambling Awareness Week outreach efforts on Massachusetts high schools by offering free services, including:

- Guest speakers in health classes
- School assemblies on gambling problems
- Information tables in school cafeterias
- Information for school websites
- Information pamphlets for health/guidance office(s)
- A video entitled, *the Big Win*, which addresses teenage gambling problems

For more information, please visit the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling's website at [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org) or call the organization's toll-free Helpline (1-800-GAM-1234).

*The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is a private, non-profit health agency dedicated to reducing the social, financial and emotional costs of problem gambling. The Council provides information, education, advocacy and referral services for problem gamblers, their loved ones and the greater community.*