



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2026

Michigan Association on Problem Gambling Rallies Lawmakers, Industry Leaders to Strengthen Player Protections Statewide

Legislative Breakfast Aligns with National Problem Gambling Awareness Month

LANSING, MI — The Michigan Association on Problem Gambling (MAPG) will bring together legislators, regulators, and gaming-industry leaders in early March for a statewide legislative breakfast focused on strengthening Michigan's player-health services and modernizing the state's responsible-gambling framework.

MAPG's Interim Executive Director **Marlene Warner**, who is leading the organization's efforts to advance consumer-health protections through legislation and regulation, will facilitate the discussion. Under Warner's leadership, MAPG is prioritizing improvements to Michigan's self-exclusion system: the development of a single, streamlined form that covers online lottery, online sports betting, and retail casinos. The organization is also urging policymakers to [reduce punitive or criminal penalties associated with the Disassociated Persons List](#), ensuring individuals can seek protection without fear of unintended legal consequences.

"Problem Gambling Awareness Month is a time to remove barriers and elevate solutions that make it easier, not more challenging, for people to access the support they need without fear of repercussions," said Warner. "Our focus is on advocating for stronger consumer protections that ensure people can access essential support across all gambling platforms."

[Problem Gambling Month Awareness observance](#) is a national initiative to raise awareness of gambling-related harms and expand access to support. Research shows Michigan continues to see rapid growth in sports betting and online gaming, with calls to the state's helpline [tripling since online betting was legalized in 2022](#).

"MAPG is committed to addressing problem gambling by providing accessible programs, training, and resources, raising awareness, and galvanizing stakeholders from across the state," Warner added.

Media Availability

Marlene Warner will be available for interviews on **March 4**, immediately following the legislative breakfast.

To schedule an interview, please contact:

Janine Ruggiero

Jill Amadeo

comms@macgh.org

janine@macgh.org

About the Michigan Association on Problem Gambling (MAPG)

MAPG is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to reducing the harm caused by problem gambling through access to resources, clinician training, public awareness, and stakeholder engagement. MAPG works with communities, policymakers, clinicians, and gaming operators to promote responsible gambling and expand access to help for individuals and families affected by gambling-related harm.