



## **Some “Odds” are Better than Others on Youth Stocking Stuffers**

*Oregon nonprofit creates new campaign for responsible alternatives to gifting lottery tickets to youth*

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**Portland, OR** – With one week until Christmas Day in a year fraught with uncertainty, one thing has remained steadfast for most responsible gaming advocates: lottery tickets aren't for kids.

The Oregon Council on Problem Gambling has developed a new campaign aimed for parents and others to consider and solicit ideas about age-appropriate stocking stuffer ideas; suggestions, such as modeling clay and Mad Libs, are found on their website, [www.oregoncpg.org](http://www.oregoncpg.org).

“There are so many great and inexpensive things to put in kids' stockings,” said Julie Hynes, Executive Director of the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling. Hynes, who is also a parent, said the campaign resonates for parents like her who are especially at wit's end after a year ravaged by at once uncertainty and drudgery.

“While seemingly harmless and like a good spark of fun and hope—especially this year—lottery tickets are not healthy gifts for young people,” said Hynes. “That's why we hope to put forward some ideas for others to think about – and for parents and caregivers to share their ideas as well.”

Research has shown the earlier in life young people begin to gamble, the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem. Hynes also noted recent trends in video game gift cards that can be used to purchase loot boxes, which also carry risk themselves for young people.

The [National Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.nationalcouncilonproblemgambling.org) has partnered with the [International Centre for Youth Gambling and High-Risk Behaviors](http://www.internationalcentreforyouthgambling.org) since 2002 to educate the public that holiday lottery gifts are not for those underage.

The Oregon State Lottery, which has received a number of honors and awards for its work in responsible gambling, has signed on as a key partner of this effort again in 2020.

Help in Oregon is free for those struggling with gambling and their concerned others by calling the 24-hour gambling helpline, 1-877-MY-LIMIT, or by visiting [www.opgr.org](http://www.opgr.org).

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