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STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA’S REQUEST FOR \$1.1 BILLION TO FIGHT OPIOID ADDICTION

The White House said today that President Obama will ask Congress for \$1.1 billion to fight opioid addiction. The funding would be used to expand access to substance abuse treatment, and will also help provide better access to the overdose antidote drug Naloxone.

“I’m encouraged to hear that President Obama recognizes the urgency with which we must fight the epidemic of opioid abuse in our country,” said Gary Mendell, founder and CEO of Shatterproof. “A billion dollars can go a long way in reducing the number of deaths we see from prescription painkiller and heroin overdoses – 80 of our parents, siblings, and children are dying every day. Congress must include this urgently-needed money in the budget they approve later this year.

“But this is just a down payment on what the federal and state governments must do. The Centers for Disease Control must quickly approve new guidelines for doctors on when to prescribe prescription painkillers. And state governments must require that doctors utilize their state databases so that they know how recently a patient was prescribed opioid painkillers, or any other drug that could be harmful if taken with prescription painkillers. By taking these common sense steps, we can help reduce the number of lives lost by this horrible epidemic.”

About Shatterproof

[Shatterproof](#) a national organization committed to protecting our loved ones from addiction to illicit and prescription drugs, and alcohol, and ending the stigma and suffering of those affected by this disease. In the U.S. alone, addiction to alcohol and other drugs claims more than 135,000 lives every year — 370 people every day, 15 every hour. In 2012, Gary Mendell, former hotel executive and a member of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, founded Shatterproof to educate, empower and equip families, educators, health care providers, legislators and others to proactively address addiction among children and young adults. His son, Brian Mendell, lost his battle with addiction at the age of 25 in 2011.

About Gary Mendell

Gary Mendell is the founder and CEO of Shatterproof. Mr. Mendell founded Shatterproof to spare others the tragedy his family suffered with the death of his son Brian, who lost his battle with addiction in 2011. Mr. Mendell is the founder and former CEO of HEI Hotels & Resort and the former president of Starwood Lodging Trust.

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