



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM GARY MENDELL ON PRINCE

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office confirmed yesterday that Prince died from an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more powerful than heroin. Shatterproof founder and CEO Gary Mendell released the following the statement:

"Prince's death is another tragic reminder that the disease of addiction can touch anyone, no matter how rich and famous. He may be well-known by many, but he is one of 129 loved ones who die every day from a drug overdose.

Too many of our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, and friends and neighbors have been victims of this epidemic. Congress must quickly pass the opioid legislation that still sits in a conference committee on Capitol Hill. As a father who lost his son to addiction, I am calling on our elected representatives to tackle this like the public health crisis that it is – because we as parents demand it. There are several immediate needs. Fill the treatment gap. Require doctors to use their state-run databases to check a patient's prescription history before writing a prescription for painkillers or sedatives. And appropriate more money for prevention and for treatment.

Prince was one of the greatest artists of his generation. I hope some good can come out of his death – awareness of the issue and more resources to end this terrible epidemic."

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.

About Shatterproof:

Shatterproof is a national organization committed to protecting loved ones from addiction to illicit and prescription drugs, and alcohol, and ending the stigma and suffering of those affected by this disease. Shatterproof provides information and resources for those living with addiction and their families, enabling powerful new evidence-based approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery, and takes the issue to the steps of Capitol Hill.

