



**February 6, 2016**

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## **SHATTERPROOF CALLS ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO PUT AN END TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC NOW BY PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE CDC GUIDELINES**

Opioid addiction is a major issue nationally, and particularly in New Hampshire where many campaigns have made clear that ending the epidemic is a top priority. Yesterday both Secretary Clinton and Carly Fiorina visited recovery centers in New Hampshire. The statement below calls on presidential hopefuls to act now – before they even get to the White House – to end the opioid epidemic in our country. The following statement should be attributed to the CEO and Founder of Shatterproof, Gary Mendell.

“In the race to the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, one issue has stood out among the rest: the need to end the epidemic of opioid abuse and addiction in our country. This disease takes more lives every year than car crashes; we cannot ignore this problem any longer. Eighty people are dying every day of an opioid related death and the majority of the addicted developed this disease before their eighteenth birthday; these are our children dying.

“In New Hampshire in particular, drug-overdose deaths grew by 17% from 2014 to 2015 and a horrifying 73.5% percent from 2013 to 2014. Every candidate should be talking about this problem and pledge to be part of the solution.

“That is why today, I am standing up and asking that every presidential candidate pledge to urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to quickly issue the guidelines for primary care physicians on when to prescribe prescription painkillers. These guidelines, which were drafted last year, need to be issued immediately, without being watered down and every candidate should make this a priority. Every day we wait, we risk losing more of our family and friends to this horrible epidemic.”

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### **About Shatterproof**

[Shatterproof](http://shatterproof.org) 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.