



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Shatterproof's Gary Mendell, Other Addiction Advocates  
Meet with Top Officials at the White House**

*Discussion Focused on Need for Congress to Approve Anti-Addiction Funding*

**WASHINGTON** – Shatterproof founder and CEO Gary Mendell met today at the White House with top administration officials to discuss the president's \$1.1 billion funding request to fight the opioid addiction crisis that has ravaged hundreds of thousands of families across the country.

The meeting included Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli.

"The opioid addiction epidemic is getting worse every year, and the federal response has been painfully slow. But thanks to President Obama's leadership, the issue is finally getting the attention in Washington that it desperately needs," Mendell said. "Members of Congress say they know how bad the crisis is. Now it's time for them to put their money where their rhetoric is."

This president has officially [proclaimed](#) this week as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week.

**Gary is available for on-the-record interviews (on the phone or on camera) all afternoon today.**

*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](#), a national non-profit dedicated to reducing the devastation that addiction causes to families and the unjust stigma associated with the 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.

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