



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2016

Contact: Ben Geldon

bgeldon@skdknick.com

(202) 464-6606

Shatterproof Urges FDA to Follow Panel's Recommendation, Require Training For Opioid Prescribers

May 5, 2016 (NEW YORK, NY) – Yesterday an expert panel convened by the Food & Drug Administration voted to recommend mandatory training for all doctors who prescribe opioid painkillers. The panel also recommended the FDA broaden its oversight of fast-acting drugs like Percocet and Vicodin. Now it's up to FDA Commissioner Robert Califf to make a final decision.

Shatterproof founder and CEO Gary Mendell released this statement.

"The number of prescriptions for painkillers has quadrupled since 1999, while the number of overdose deaths has quintupled. That is not a coincidence. Physicians need to ensure patients have access to safer, more effective chronic pain treatment, without putting a patient's life in danger. Four years ago, the FDA rejected a similar recommendation. Since then, more than 100,000 of our loved ones have died from opioid addiction. The FDA cannot make that mistake again. We welcome the expert panel's finding and encourage the FDA to require mandatory training."

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.