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Shatterproof Applauds Gov. Hogan, Maryland Legislature For Passing Opioid Addiction Measure

ANNAPOLIS – Today Gov. Larry Hogan is signing a landmark bill to help curb the opioid epidemic that has ravaged too many families across Maryland. The bill requires doctors in the state to check a patient’s history in a state database before prescribing an opioid (painkillers such as Vicodin or OxyContin) or a benzodiazepine (sedatives such as Xanax or Valium). Prescribers will have to check the data again every 90 days until the course of treatment has ended.

Shatterproof, a nonprofit organization focused on ending addiction, fought for the bill in Annapolis. Founder and CEO Gary Mendell was among those testifying before the state legislature, and today issued this statement:

“The law could save hundreds of Maryland families from the agony of losing a family member to this disease,” Mendell said. “The devastation to our families is directly linked to the overprescribing of painkillers, and we’re thrilled that this law will mean fewer pills on the streets and in our homes.”

Mendell added, “This is a strong law, but it’s still a start. There’s so much more that Maryland and every other state can be doing to save lives.”

Maryland becomes the eighth state to require practitioners to check the state database.

Gary is available for on-the-record or background interviews.

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.