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**Contact:**

Kristen Hernandez

[khernandez@skdknick.com](mailto:khernandez@skdknick.com)

(202) 464-6620

**Gov. Jerry Brown Signs Bill Requiring Use of  
Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs**

*California Becomes 9<sup>th</sup> State to Implement Common-Sense Measure*

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – Today, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that requires all prescribers to check the state-run prescription database (known as CURES 2.0) before prescribing opioid painkillers, sedatives or any other schedule II, III or IV drugs. Legislators approved the bill unanimously.

California becomes the ninth state with a required check and the fourth to do so this year. A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program can save lives by alerting doctors to early signs of addiction (such as doctor-shopping) and preventing them from accidentally prescribing a lethal combination of pills, such as an opioid like Vicodin along with a sedative like Xanax.

Shatterproof founder and CEO Gary Mendell, who lost his son Brian to addiction in 2011, [led](#) the [fight](#) for the bill in Sacramento. He released the following statement:

“California took a major step today to fight a disease that has ravaged too many communities across the country. More than 30,000 of our friends and family are dying every year from opioid addiction, including more than 4,000 in California. The addiction epidemic is a direct result of the over-prescription of opioid painkillers, and this law means fewer will be dispensed to patients most at risk. There is no disputing that requiring doctors to use their state prescription database will save thousands of lives.

“California is the ninth state to require prescribers to check a PDMP. That means 41 states do not. One recent study showed that where using the system is voluntary, doctors check it only 14% of the time before prescribing an opioid. That is unacceptable. It is literally killing thousands of people every year. That’s why every state must follow California’s lead. It is basic common sense.”

For more information about Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, please read [Shatterproof's exclusive report](#) on why these systems work and the best ways for states to implement them.

**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.

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