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Shatterproof's Gary Mendell Applauds House for Action on Opioids, Urges Quick Action in Conference Committee

May 12, 2016 (WASHINGTON, DC) – In a bipartisan vote, the House today approved a broad package of measures to fight the opioid addiction epidemic. It now heads to a House-Senate conference committee to iron out differences before going to the president's desk for his signature.

Gary Mendell, founder and CEO of Shatterproof, released this statement:

"I applaud the House for its bipartisan backing of this important legislation to tackle the opioid epidemic that is ravaging our country. The disease of addiction does not discriminate based on whether you live in a red state or a blue state. The House's action today was an important step to addressing this crisis, and I am grateful for its work. I urge House and Senate leaders to produce the strongest conference bill possible, as quickly as possible, to stop lives from being shattered.

But there is so much left to do. Congress needs to approve President Obama's \$1.1 billion funding request, which is vital to this law's implementation.

Further, the devastation to our families is directly linked to the overprescribing of painkillers. Training must be required for anyone with a license to prescribe a controlled substance. States must require prescribers to use databases to keep track of a patient's opioid prescription history *before* considering prescribing either an opioid or a sedative."

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.