

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT Amber McLaughlin 703-407-6070 amber@patrickjkennedy.net

Patrick J. Kennedy to Keynote University of Denver: "Redefining Mental Health: A Community Conversation," February 22, 2018.

Denver, Colo. / **February 22, 2018** – The University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology and its Center for Oncology Psychology Excellence will present *Redefining Mental Health: A Community Conversation* on Thursday, February 22, 2018, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at The History Colorado Center. Patrick J. Kennedy, former Rhode Island Congressman and international advocate for parity in mental health and substance use disorder treatment, will deliver the keynote address.

Redefining Mental Health will bring together local leaders in mental health for discussion on changing the ways mental health is treated and talked about locally and at the national level. Kennedy's keynote speech, entitled "Health Care's Next Frontier: Mental Health for All," will address mental health parity.

To register for the free February 22 event, please visit <u>https://www.du.edu/gspp/redefining-mental-</u> health/events/index.

About Patrick J. Kennedy:

Former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (D-R.I.) is a lifelong mental health advocate and member of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. He is the founder of The Kennedy Forum, a convening think tank tackling mental health and addiction issues and co-founder of One Mind, a global leader in open science collaboration for brain research. In 2015, he co-authored A Common Struggle, a New York Times best seller, which details his personal journey and provides a roadmap for the future of mental health policy. Mr. Kennedy is pushing for full enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. He was the lead sponsor of this groundbreaking legislation, which requires health plans cover mental health, eating disorder, and addiction care health benefits the same way they cover physical health benefits. To learn about Mr. Kennedy's efforts, please visit www.patrickjkennedy.net.

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