



Office of Presidential Personnel
Biden-Harris Administration

Letter of Support for the Application of The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy to the role of Director of The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

December 18, 2020

Dear Members of the Office of Presidential Personnel,

On behalf of Shatterproof, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the United States, I am writing to support the application of The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy to be appointed as the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Mr. Kennedy has been on the Advisory Board of Shatterproof since we were formed in 2012. He is someone I have looked to countless times as he is a well-respected leader and voice fighting tirelessly for equity for those living with substance use or mental health disorders, as he has publicly acknowledged his own addiction and is a person in long-term recovery. His willingness to be open and honest about his recovery has helped to inspire countless others to end the stigma of addiction.

Mr. Kennedy is not only an advocate, but the primary author behind the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act ("Parity.") The Parity bill has significantly advanced insurance coverage for SUD treatment and therefore, has increased access and affordability of addiction treatment. However, there is much more work to be done on Parity enforcement. Mr. Kennedy would bring a much-needed focus on addressing addiction as a public health issue and bringing it into the medical mainstream. **This would be a tremendous asset to the federal government and to the lives of millions of Americans. It would literally save the lives of countless of our loved ones.** He also has an excellent rapport with those on the Hill from his leadership of serving previously as a Congressman for 16 years to being president and founder of The Kennedy Forum.

Patrick truly represents and understands the needs of people suffering from addiction and those who have found recovery. I feel this combined with his extensive knowledge of the issues at hand, his rapport with key decision makers and industry leaders and his leadership capabilities make him a formidable candidate for the position.

We strongly support the candidacy The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy for the vital role of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Sincerely,

Gary Mendell
Founder & CEO, Shatterproof