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**Patrick J. Kennedy to Deliver Plenary Address at American Organization of Nurse Executives Annual Meeting April 13**

**Indianapolis, Ind. / April 13, 2018** – The American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) will host its Annual Meeting Thursday April 12 – Sunday April 15, 2018 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Patrick J. Kennedy, a former congressman and the nation’s leading mental health advocate, will speak at the April 13 plenary session, addressing the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and the importance of equal access to mental health and addiction services. The session will run 3:45 – 3:45 p.m. and Kennedy will participate in a book signing following the session.

According to its website, AONE provides leadership, professional development, advocacy and research to advance nursing practice and patient care, promote nursing leadership excellence, and shape public policy for health care nationwide. The AONE Annual Meeting brings together nursing leaders from across the United States to examine and solve challenges facing the nursing profession.

To register or to learn more, please visit <http://www.aone.org/annual-meeting/>.

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**About Patrick J. Kennedy:**

Former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (D-R.I.) is a lifelong mental health advocate and former 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](http://www.patrickjkennedy.net).