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Patrick J. Kennedy Speaks on Mental Health at Atrium Health Foundation Luncheon

Charlotte, N.C. / September 12, 2018 – The Atrium Health Foundation will host its second annual behavioral health luncheon benefitting the Carolinas Behavioral Health Advancement Fund. “Patrick Kennedy Speaks on Mental Health: Behavioral Health Luncheon” will take place Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. 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.

According to the event website, proceeds will benefit “the only dedicated psychiatric emergency department in the region” and be used to underwrite suicide prevention programs and efforts to educate the community about mental illness and substance use disorders.

For more information or to register, please visit

<http://www.atriumhealthfoundation.org/event/behavioralhealth/>

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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.