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**Patrick J. Kennedy to speak at Tennessee Hospital Association Annual Meeting October 19**

**Franklin, Tenn. / October 19, 2018** –The Tennessee Hospital Association will host its 2018 Annual Meeting, “Hospitals Make It Happen,” October 17-19 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee.

Patrick J. Kennedy, former Rhode Island Congressman and international advocate for parity in mental health and substance use disorder treatment, will deliver the Education Session address on Friday, October 19, entitled “Healthcare’s Next Frontier: The Race to Inner Space.” The session will take place from 10:00-11:15 a.m. and is open to all conference registrants.

Other speakers include Kevin Hines, mental health advocate and documentary film maker, and Natalie Stavas, M.D., physician and Boston Marathon hero.

According to its website, the event will focus on quality improvement efforts in the states’ hospitals and recognize the work of the industry and the integral role hospitals play in shaping individual lives and communities.

For more information or to register, please visit <https://tha.com/>.

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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).