



A pioneer in mental health policy and advocacy, the Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy served as Representative for Rhode Island's First Congressional District for 16 years, championing causes essential to the well-being of all Americans. During his time on Capitol Hill, Mr. Kennedy was the author and chief sponsor of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, groundbreaking legislation that guaranteed, for the first time in history, equal access to mental health and addiction services. Kennedy was the nation's leading political voice on mental illness, addiction, and other brain diseases. Calling it the "civil rights issue of our time," Mr. Kennedy successfully oversaw the bill's passage, and in 2008, it was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

Upon leaving Congress in 2011, Mr. Kennedy made a promise: to be a vocal advocate for the full and unequivocal implementation of the 2008 Parity law, and to push for a greater global investment in brain research, which Mr. Kennedy says is the "next great frontier in medicine." To make that promise a reality, Mr. Kennedy has been instrumental in the formation of two innovative organizations: One Mind for Research and the Kennedy Forum on Community Mental Health. As a co-founder of One Mind for Research, Mr. Kennedy is leading the call to revolutionize the ways we study, diagnose and treat brain diseases. To achieve these objectives, One Mind is pioneering an innovative approach to open science that ensures that scientific research, results and data are available and accessible to everyone. This forward-thinking approach puts a premium on collaboration and innovation, ensuring that patients will receive quicker, better and more effective diagnosis and treatments.

Rep. Kennedy is also the founde...

Patrick Kennedy

Speech Topics

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