

## Bios of Guest speakers on December 7<sup>th</sup>

### Gary Mendell, CEO, Shatterproof

Gary Mendell is the founder, Chairman and CEO of Shatterproof. After losing his son Brian to addiction in 2011, Gary founded Shatterproof to spare other families the tragedy his had suffered.

Gary spent decades as an entrepreneur. He founded HEI Hotels & Resorts, a multi-billion-dollar company that oversees a portfolio of 70 hotels. He's also a former trustee and president of Starwood Lodging Trust. That business-world experience gives him a unique perspective in running a non-profit organization like Shatterproof.

Mr. Mendell received his B.S. from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and his MBA with distinction from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

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### Chris Jones, Director, Division of Science Policy, ASPE/HHS

Dr. Christopher Jones serves as Director of the Division of Science Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Division serves as the ASPE lead on public health and biomedical science issues and initiatives. Dr. Jones previously served as senior advisor in the Office of Public Health Strategy and Analysis in the Office of the Commissioner at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), led the CDC's drug abuse and overdose work, and completed a one-year detail to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as Senior Public Health Advisor. During this detail, he co-led the development of the administration's 2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan. Dr. Jones previously lead the Drug Safety and Risk Communication team in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and was part of the Science Team in the CDC's Strategic National Stockpile. Dr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree from Reinhardt College, his pharmacy doctorate from Mercer University, and his master of public health from New York Medical College School of Public Health.

## Bios of Members of Congress represented during December 8<sup>th</sup> Hill Staffer Panel

Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), represented by Andy Vogt, Professional Staff Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Majority

In 2016, the nation's governors created the James Madison Award to recognize members of Congress who support federalism and the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing states' rights. The governors named Sen. Lamar Alexander as the first-ever recipient of the award for his work to fix No Child Left Behind. The new education law Alexander worked to pass was signed by the president in December 2015. The Wall Street Journal called it "the largest devolution of federal power to the states in a quarter century."

In 2013, the National Conference of State Legislatures gave Sen. Alexander and three other senators its "Restoring the Balance" Award for protecting states' rights, the first time in 10 years the organization gave this award to U.S. senators.

Alexander, a seventh-generation Tennessean born and raised in Maryville, was twice elected governor of Tennessee. He has always believed that in most cases the best decisions are made by those closest to the people.

Today, Alexander chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Alexander is also chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, where he works to boost funding for basic energy research and invest in our inland waterways and harbors.

Alexander was first elected to the Senate in 2002 and has been re-elected twice. His Republican colleagues elected him three times to be chairman of the Senate Republican Conference.

He has previously served as president of the University of Tennessee and as U.S. Secretary of Education under George H.W. Bush.

He is a classical and country pianist and the author of seven books.

Lamar Alexander and his wife Honey have four children and eight grandchildren and a dog named Rufus.

**Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), represented by Laurel Sakai, Professional Staff Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Minority**

As Washington state's senior Senator, Patty Murray has a proven track record spanning more than two decades of fighting for Washington state 2012 in the United States Senate. Serving as a member of Senate Democratic leadership since 2007, Patty has established herself as a tireless and effective leader on education, transportation, budget issues, port security, healthcare, women, and veterans issues.

In addition to being the first female Senator from Washington state, Patty served as the first female Chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee during the 112th Congress and served as the first female Chair of the Senate Budget Committee during the 113th Congress. She is currently Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Patty was born and raised in Bothell, Washington. Her dad ran a five and dime store on Main Street, where she and her siblings all worked growing up. As a twin and one of seven children, she quickly learned the value of a strong work ethic and a country that supports those who fall on hard times when her father fell ill when she was 15. Patty's father – a World War II veteran and a Purple Heart recipient – was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and in a few short years, his illness got so bad he couldn't work anymore. Patty's mother, who had stayed home to raise their family, had to take care of him while also working to support their family. She found some work, but it didn't pay enough to support Patty and her six brothers and sisters—and a husband with growing medical bills. Thankfully, they lived in a country where the government didn't just say "tough luck."

Patty's family received some help from the VA for their father's medical care, but for several months her family had to rely on food stamps. However, thanks to a program established by the federal government, Patty's mother was able to go back to school in order to find a better paying job. And thanks to federal grants and student loans, Patty and her siblings were all able to attend college. While attending Washington State University, Patty took an internship in the psychiatric ward of the Seattle VA. It was there she personally witnessed the sacrifices of young Vietnam War veterans.

Never planning to enter politics, in the 1980's a state politician told her she "couldn't make a difference" when she went to Olympia as a parent to advocate for a local preschool program targeted by state budget cuts. Patty responded by organizing a grassroots coalition of 13,000 parents that fought successfully to save the program. Patty went on to serve on the Shoreline School Board, and in 1988 was elected to the Washington State Senate. In 1992, she ran for the United States Senate as a voice for Washington families who were not being heard. Dramatically outspent, Patty ran a grassroots campaign of family, friends, supporters, and public interest groups to beat a 10-year veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives. Patty was re-elected in 1998, 2004, and 2010.

**Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), represented by Dr. Kristen Shatynski, Professional Staff Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Caleb Graff, Professional Staff Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Majority**

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden represents the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District, which includes 20 counties in central, southern, and eastern Oregon. Walden, 60, is a lifelong Oregonian whose ancestors came to Oregon by wagon train in 1845.

He and his wife Mylene celebrated 35 years of marriage in August 2017, and make their home in Hood River where they've been small business owners since 1986. Their son, Anthony graduated from Hood River Valley High School and Wake Forest University. His parents are graduates of the University of Oregon.

Walden and his wife spent more than two decades as radio station owners in the Gorge. He's also a licensed amateur radio operator (W7EQI). He put that small business and technology experience to work as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. In this role, he worked to pass legislation to grow American jobs by expanding access to wireless broadband, spur new U.S. technology and innovation, and protect the Internet from government control.

His work in support of Oregon's rural farm and ranch economy has earned him local and national recognition. He's helped write and pass bipartisan legislation to expedite treatment of fire-prone forests, and continues to work across the aisle to find natural resource solutions. The House has also passed bipartisan legislation Walden has championed to fix broken federal forest policy to restore forest health and put people back to work in the woods, as well as legislation (now law) to bring more water and power to Central Oregon for job creation.

Walden's experience as a former member of the Hood River Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees and as a former member of the Oregon Health Sciences University Foundation Board have helped in his work to improve access to affordable health care, especially in rural communities. His successful efforts have earned him national and local awards.

Walden has also worked hard to ensure that Oregon service members and veterans receive the benefits they have earned through years of brave service.

In November 2014, Walden's House Republican colleagues unanimously reelected him to serve as chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC).

In December 2016, Walden was selected as Chairman of the full Committee on Energy & Commerce.

## Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), represented by Waverly Gordon, Health Counsel, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Minority

On January 3, 2017, Frank Pallone, Jr. was sworn in for his 15th full term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pallone represents New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District, which covers most of Middlesex County, as well as the Bayshore and oceanfront areas of Monmouth County.

Throughout his career, Pallone has been a leader in protecting the integrity of the Medicare guarantee and Medicaid programs, making the nation's food system safer, strengthening laws to keep our air and water clean, making health care more affordable and accessible, and supporting initiatives that advance and protect the public health.

Pallone is the Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over issues pertaining to energy, environment, health care, commerce, and telecommunications.

From 2006 to 2014, Pallone served as the top Democrat on the Committee's Subcommittee on Health. As Chairman during the 111th Congress, Pallone played a key role in authoring and passing the Affordable Care Act. The landmark law extends health care coverage to millions of Americans, while driving down health care costs and reigning in abusive tactics used by insurance companies to deny medical treatment.

Frank Pallone, Jr., was born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey, where he still resides. He is a graduate of Middlebury College, holds a master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and earned his law degree at Rutgers University.

Pallone began his political career in his home city of Long Branch, getting elected to the City Council in 1982 and winning re-election four years later. In 1983, Pallone was elected to the state Senate, representing the Monmouth County coastline. He was re-elected in 1987. During his tenure in the state Legislature, Pallone distinguished himself as an advocate for environmental issues and senior citizen concerns, and prioritized providing constituent services.

Pallone and his wife Sarah have three children; daughters Rose and Celeste, and a son, Frank.