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# Suicide Prevention Action Network USA Announces New Field Liaison in Minnesota

*SPAN USA is one step closer to reaching its goal of mobilizing 435 Field Liaisons across the country—one in every U.S. Congressional district*

**Washington, D.C., April 2, 2008**—The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA, the nation’s leading grassroots advocacy organization working to advance public policies that prevent suicide, today announced a new grassroots leader in its Field Liaison program. Suicide is one of the top ten most preventable deaths in Minnesota.

Rebecca Snyder has been named the Field Liaison to represent the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District of Bemidji, Minnesota. Rebecca is currently a suicide prevention coordinator for the Beltrami County Headwaters Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and reaches out to local districts to encourage support from local legislators. The program is run through Healthy Community Healthy Kids in Bemidji, MN. Rebecca has a Master’s degree in social work and is a licensed social worker in the state of Minnesota.

“As part of its mission, SPAN USA continues our effort to create and help implement strategies for suicide prevention on the national, state, and community levels,” explained Jerry Reed, SPAN USA’s executive director. “But we know that our Washington, D.C. office cannot do this alone. SPAN USA’s Field Liaison program seeks to inspire others to raise their community’s awareness about suicide and help us spread the word that prevention is possible. We intend to spread the vision of suicide prevention to each and every member of Congress through one of their constituents in our network.”

SPAN USA’s grassroots ‘field network’ includes advocates, survivors, health professionals, and community leaders who have volunteered to serve as a field liaison. SPAN USA’s goal is to have 435 Field Liaisons across the country—one in every Congressional district in the United States.

## **About SPAN USA**

SPAN USA is the nation’s only suicide prevention organization dedicated to leveraging grassroots support among suicide survivors and others to advance public policies that prevent suicide. Since its founding in

1996, SPAN USA has led the drive to make suicide a public health priority by building political will and calling for the development and implementation of a national strategy for suicide prevention. Using its extensive grassroots network of survivors and advocates, SPAN USA has actively promoted the cause on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures. For more information, please visit [www.spanusa.org](http://www.spanusa.org).

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