



SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION NETWORK USA
Opening Minds. Changing Policy. Saving Lives.

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SPAN USA Welcomes New Policy and Program Director

Brian Altman to Lead SPAN USA's Policy and Advocacy Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 16, 2007) — The Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA) today announced Brian Altman is the new director of public policy and program development. In this newly created position, Altman is responsible for executing policy and advocacy initiatives that build upon SPAN USA's core mission to prevent suicide through public education and awareness, community action and federal, state and local grassroots advocacy.

"Brian comes to SPAN USA with a wealth of experience working with Congress and the administration on mental health issues," said Jerry Reed, executive director of SPAN USA. "We are pleased to have Brian on board with our growing organization. His expertise and track record of success will be critical in guiding SPAN USA's legislative efforts in the 110th Congress."

Altman was most recently legislative representative for the American Counseling Association (ACA), where he advocated on behalf of licensed professional counselors on Capitol Hill and with the administration and handled issues such as Medicare reimbursement and independent practice authority in TRICARE. He also succeeded in working with lawmakers to pass legislation to improve mental health care for veterans by allowing licensed professional counselors to be appointed to positions within the Veterans Health Administration. In his position with ACA Altman also served on the Steering Committee of the Mental Health Liaison Group.

Prior to joining ACA, Altman was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Claire V. Eagan, chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northeastern District of Oklahoma, and as political action committee manager for the American Forest and Paper Association.

Altman holds a Bachelor of Arts in public policy studies from Duke University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

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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 10 years ago, 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.