



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Melanie Fonder
(202) 715-1568
melanie.fonder@dittus.com

All Other Inquiries:
Brian Altman
(202) 449-3600
baltman@spanusa.org

Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA) Executive Director Jerry Reed Attends Florida Walk and Rally to Raise Awareness

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 25, 2007 — Today Jerry Reed, Executive Director of the Washington, D.C.-based Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA), spoke at the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Florida Suicide Prevention Task Force “Walk and Rally.” The event, which brought together advocates, survivors, students, grassroots organizations and state agencies, drew attention to the public health issue of suicide and urged support for prevention programs and policies.

In Florida, a suicide prevention bill (SB224 and HB139) that would help save lives passed the House unanimously on March 29 and the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee yesterday.

“I hope in the days to come we can celebrate the passage of this important law in Florida and Governor Crist is given the chance to sign this legislation. When we celebrate this passage, we are celebrating the gift of life.”

Suicide is a leading cause of death in Florida – including more than 2,300 people in 2005. Nationwide, more than 31,000 lives are lost to suicide and it is the third-leading cause of death for young persons between the ages of 10 and 24.

NOTE: To schedule an interview with SPAN USA Executive Director Jerry Reed, please contact Melanie Fonder at (202) 715-1568 or melanie.fonder@dittus.com.

###

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 nine 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.

OPENING MINDS. CHANGING POLICY. SAVING LIVES.®

1025 Vermont Avenue, NW • Suite 1066 • Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-449-3600 • Fax: 202-449-3601

www.spanusa.org