



**Media Advisory**

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## **SDE suicide-prevention efforts get boost from donation**

(BOISE) – As part of Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra will accept a \$25,000 check from the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) Tuesday afternoon to help fund the Sources of Strength program.

SPAN is closing at the end of the month but its Region IV members, who are making the donation, remain dedicated to the Sources of Strength (SoS) mission to decrease risk factors and build positive influences. Sources of Strength is part of the Idaho Lives Project, a joint effort of the State Department of Education and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Suicide Prevention Program. [In the latest round of funding, 17 middle- and high schools across Idaho received \\$2,400 each through SoS.](#)

Since Idaho implemented Sources of Strength in 2013, Idaho's youth suicide numbers have dropped from 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation to 13<sup>th</sup>, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The presentation is scheduled for 2:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Governor's Ceremonial Chambers, followed by Gov. Brad Little proclaiming Feb. 26 Suicide Prevention Day. Also on Tuesday at the Capitol, suicide-prevention advocacy groups will dispense information and meet with lawmakers, urging them to prioritize suicide prevention and mental health initiatives.

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