



Contact: Eileen Sexton  
202-572-5383, [esexton@edc.org](mailto:esexton@edc.org)

## **National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention announces Robert W. Turner, Union Pacific Corporation, as new Private Sector Co-Chair**

Washington, DC –The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention today named Robert W. Turner, Senior Vice President, Union Pacific Corporation, the new Private Sector Co-Chair for the organization. As co-chair, Turner will provide overall vision and leadership for the Action Alliance as it advances the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* (NSSP), a national research agenda, and private sector involvement. He will utilize his business experience and leadership to advance a national culture of safety and increase suicide prevention, treatment, and aftercare awareness within the American workforce.

Turner joins Public Sector Co-Chair, Secretary of the Army, Honorable John M. McHugh, in leading the Action Alliance.

“Today we welcome Bob Turner, and thank him for his commitment to enlisting the help of the American business community in suicide prevention and education,” said Secretary McHugh. “Bob is no stranger to the Action Alliance, serving as an Executive Committee member since 2011. He is a proven leader in his field who cares deeply about suicide prevention and the mission of the Action Alliance; I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new capacity.”

Turner has served as an Action Alliance Executive Committee member since February 2011, and convened a January 2014 railroad industry meeting for the Action Alliance called *Exploring the Role of the Railroad Industry in Promoting Suicide Prevention*. The meeting was innovative in exploring how a major industry might contribute to reducing the overall societal toll of suicide.

“The business community in America can play a pivotal role in suicide reduction,” Turner said. “By educating our employees on risk identification, working with our healthcare providers on better screening and prevention strategies, and marshaling our collective voices to support effective public policy, we have the opportunity to make a measurable difference in every community. It is an honor to be selected as the new Private Sector Co-Chair and I am looking forward to working with Secretary McHugh and the Action Alliance to advance this important work.”

### **Introducing the Action Alliance's New Private Sector Co-Chair Robert W. Turner**

Named Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations of Union Pacific Corporation in August 2000, Turner has companywide responsibility for internal and external communications, corporate advertising and brand management, public affairs, media relations, community and government affairs, and corporate philanthropy. He serves as president of the Union Pacific Foundation and is head of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum. ([MORE](#))

### **Honoring Gordon Smith's Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Legacy**

Two-time Oregon Senator and current President and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the Honorable Gordon H. Smith was recognized today for his service as the Action Alliance's founding Private Sector Co-Chair. Smith leaves behind an enduring legacy. He has been at the forefront of advancing suicide prevention as a national priority, championing early identification, expanding access to mental health and suicide prevention treatment, and working to strongly advocate for the reduction of suicide in the United States.

“As personal an issue as suicide is for the Army and me, as Secretary, few people speak with more authority or passion than Gordon Smith, and for the past 3 ½ years, he has given tremendous voice to this critically important cause as private sector co-chair of the Action Alliance,” said McHugh. “After losing his own son to suicide, Senator Smith turned a personal tragedy into powerful advocacy; whether it was ensuring funding for suicide prevention programs or his service with Alliance, he created for his son a legacy of hope, assisting others battling depression, and helping them choose a different path.” ([MORE](#))

### **The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention**

([www.ActionAllianceforSuicidePrevention.org](http://www.ActionAllianceforSuicidePrevention.org)) is the public-private partnership working to advance the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and make suicide prevention a national priority. Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) operates the Secretariat for the Action Alliance, which was launched in 2010 by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the goal of saving 20,000 lives in five years.

Contact: Eileen Sexton, Director of Communications, 202-572-5383, [esexton@edc.org](mailto:esexton@edc.org).