



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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Expand the Vote

Statement by Lawrence E. Couch, Director

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

The right of U.S. citizens to vote came automatically for a few and has been hard fought for the many. For the last few years, we have seen an increasing appreciation of the right to vote and increasing numbers of Americans choosing to exercise their rights. The *For the People Act* seeks to address voter intimidation and voter suppression to allow for more equitable participation and restore the God-given dignity of those who have been systematically disenfranchised.

The democratic process works best when everyone has a say and says it. We should be seeking to preserve and expand the involvement of all of us in the voting process and the political life of our communities.

Pope Francis has reminded us of our obligation to participate fully in the political process. Any effort to limit the right, or place obstacles in the voting process, damages our democracy and infringes on the rights of the individual.

[The National Advocacy Center](#) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

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