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## Passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is a Good Start

Statement by Fran Eskin-Royer Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

(Silver Spring, MD) – After 30 years of debate and missed opportunities and untold lives stolen, our nation has taken a critical step forward in healing and in reducing the senseless deaths brought on through gun violence. We at the National Advocacy Center are pleased that the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act did indeed pass with bipartisan support and that President Biden signed it into law.

We have a gun violence problem in America; there are too many guns and they are too easy to get. This new law will not solve all our problems, but it is a multi-pronged start – addressing gun control, expanding mental health resources and improving school safety.

In addition, jurisdictions around the country must use the laws already on the books, and loopholes must be scrutinized and closed. Furthermore, we call on Congress to pass additional common-sense legislation such as strengthening background checks and banning assault weapons.

This new law must be only the beginning of Congressional dialog and action to reduce gun violence.

At NAC, we will continue our work to make this country safer, healthier, and happier – especially for the children.

<u>The National Advocacy Center</u> 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 National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

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

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have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.