



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

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National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Rejoices in Passage of Permanent EITC/CTC

"It is good to rejoice and have something to celebrate especially when it involves this time of year, children and their future," said Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

After months of meeting with legislative staff, planning strategies in coalition meetings, giving presentations, signing joint letters to Members of Congress, writing individual letters and sending out action alerts to NAC's subscribers, one of the most important anti-poverty victories in recent memory has been achieved. The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit (EITC/CTC) are being made permanent.

"Each year the Earned Income Tax Credit program lifts approximately 6.2 million Americans out of poverty," Couch said. "A two-parent family with two children earning minimum wage can move above the poverty line only if they receive EITC benefits and food stamps.

"It's important to note that helping a child out of poverty provides not only for the child's immediate well-being but is associated with better health, more schooling, and higher income as an adult. Making EITC and the Child Tax Credit permanent provides the economic security these families desperately need," Couch said.

Yesterday the U.S. House of Representatives voted to make permanent the EITC/CTC as an amendment to the Omnibus legislation. This morning, the House approved the final \$1.1 trillion spending bill and later today the Senate is expected to vote on the bill with bipartisan support.

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) is the voice and lobbying arm of the Good Shepherd Sisters, their ministries and agencies serving in the United States and over 70 countries. NAC offers education through processes and strategies that address social justice issues and advocates for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people. The center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, working in solidarity with the disenfranchised - particularly families, women, and children.