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### **President Trump's Dystopian Plan Against Legal Immigration Sets New Low**

"The Trump Administration continues its assault on the basic American ideal of welcoming your neighbor and America being a beacon of hope where foreigners arrive, find their American dream and become Americans themselves. The President now has LEGAL immigrants in his sight hairs," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"The Administration's proposed rule to subject LEGAL immigrants to possible deportation if they make LEGAL use of public benefits such as SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is ludicrous. This targets not just the legal resident but also the legal resident's family, including U.S. citizens. This clearly is a push against all immigration and against all immigrants," said Couch.

President Trump's Department of Homeland Security is proposing a rule change for public comment that is drastic in its scope. Traditionally, there has been a standard of self-sufficiency to arrive on our shores, but one that welcomes those who may need some support or acknowledges that at some points in our lives, we temporarily may need some assistance. Now, the Trump Administration wants to make it harder to enter the United States or to stay; it wants to deny lawful permanent residents (green card holders) the chance to apply to become U.S. citizens.

If this rule is finalized, we can no longer offer the assurance that immigrant families can seek health and nutrition benefits for themselves and for their children without fearing that doing so will harm their immigration case.

"The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd urges every American citizen and resident to contact their elected officials. Nearly every one of us has an immigrant parent or is descended from an immigrant parent," said Couch. "We call on Congress to rebuff President Trump's dystopian plan, pass legislation blocking it and to instead demonstrate responsible oversight of this Administration and its xenophobic policies."

*[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, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.*

*The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 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.*