



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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**Take the First Step to National Healing on Gun Violence
Statement by Lawrence E. Couch, Director
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd**

Here we are again – every fiber of our being seared and inflamed with anger and sorrow. Again, senseless violence and **dozens** of lives lost because **two** bad people had guns.

Some things are not easy; some things will never change. But nothing changes without a first step – and in this case, an easy step. We may always have bad people and we may always have gun violence, but we can easily REDUCE gun violence by strengthening common sense background check laws.

The National Advocacy Center and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd urgently call on the United States Senate to act and pass two bills passed by the House of Representatives that they have been sitting on since early March.

H.R. 8 would require a background check for every firearm sale. H.R. 1112 would strengthen the background check before a federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not licensed.

Our hearts ache with those who lost loved ones and for those who witnessed such horror. We raise up in prayer those injured for healing and recovery. We pray for the souls of those men, women and children who were killed. But God has given us the power to solve problems and to act.

Prayer and action are required, and the enactment of these two bills will help reduce the level of gun violence in our nation and allow the healing process to start for our badly injured society.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd is a member of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of 50 national faith organizations, denominations, and groups committed to the prevention of gun violence. We engage in advocacy and organizing, seeking legislative and societal change that will transform the reality of "96 gun deaths daily."

[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 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.

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