



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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SNAP is not the goal - It is the path to the goal Don't further restrict SNAP

"The United States was born through a quest for freedom and escape from tyranny. It also was born from our picking ourselves up by the bootstraps and offering a hand to help up someone else. Helping one helps all," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

The National Advocacy Center calls on the USDA to reject the proposed rule requiring additional work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents to receive SNAP benefits.

The deadline for public comments to the [Federal Register](#) is April 2, 2019. The proposed rule would affect 755,000 current SNAP recipients, including veterans, college students, those suffering from mental health challenges, and people formerly in the foster care system. It would restrict states' flexibility to provide vital nutrition support to people who struggle to feed themselves and their families.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and their lay partners in the United States have seen the suffering of those living in poverty and seen how complicated it is to break the chains of poverty and move out of poor areas. Finding employment is difficult in communities that don't even have a grocery store. Getting to health appointments, job training or interviews are daunting challenges when you don't have a car and public transportation is limited, slow and sometimes treacherous.

"Life and survival take time – and take time away from getting out," said Couch.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd have been at work on the issues of poverty, food insecurity and training for nearly 200 years. So too have dozens of other Religious Sisters, the Catholic Church, other Catholic organizations and other organizations of faith been hard at work on these issues, as have federal, state and local governments.

"If there were easy solutions, we already would have found them. The purpose of SNAP is to serve as a bulwark against hunger while solutions are found and while individuals and families search for a way out of poverty.

"When the Good Samaritan saw a person in need on the side of the road, he gave the person comfort, care and housing. He did not require anything in return.

"SNAP is not the end of the story; it is the beginning. SNAP is not the goal; it is the path to the goal. We need to keep the path free and clear so that those not as successful as ourselves have a way forward and do not go hungry. We are the land of milk and honey.

No person in the great United States of America should ever go hungry, especially when we have the means to prevent it," said Couch.

[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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