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## Trump Issues Fraudulent Executive Order Against Immigrants in Census

Statement by Lawrence E. Couch, Director National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

The immigrant community again is being targeted by the president of the country they love and sought out. Although not born in the United States of America, immigrants have gone the extra mile and made the proactive decision to come to the U.S. to build a better life.

And now, President Trump has issued a fraudulent executive order claiming that undocumented immigrants will not be counted in the 2020 Census results for the purposes of determining reapportionment and federal subsidies / benefits sent to state and local jurisdictions.

Congressional action has been swift, with a hearing this Wednesday in the House of Representatives. In addition, NAC supports legislation by Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) that was introduced after the order was announced. The "No Funds for Apportionment Exclusion Act" would prohibit federal funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce the President's plan.

Not only is this last minute plan sowing confusion at the Census Bureau and on the ground, but it is almost certainly an unlawful move. For those who have not participated in the Census yet, this will have a chilling effect. I'm sure that's a goal. The other goal is to flat out limit federal support to communities that are heavily immigrant.

But to what end? To exacerbate fears? To make building a better life even more difficult? Here again, the vulnerable will suffer.

As Catholics, our faith calls us to action. We must remember that America encompasses people who are entitled and people who are disenfranchised. They all matter; they all must be counted not just as a number, but as part of the equation of federal support.

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 Congregation of Our Lady of Charity 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 have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.
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