



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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Celebrating New Hope for Reducing Overdose Deaths New Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Law

"The United States continues to face an increasingly serious drug problem with countless tentacles, particularly regarding the opioid crisis. Many Good Shepherd agencies around the country are on the front lines of the crisis or tackle the numerous consequences of drug abuse," said Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"Now, we have a win. One of those tentacles is being pinned down thanks to a new law that the National Advocacy Center (NAC) actively supported. After partnering with other advocacy organizations, NAC worked to pass the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act reducing overdose deaths, increasing treatment access and reducing stigma," said Fran Eskin-Royer. The Act passed into law as part of the Omnibus legislation.

The MAT Act will give more people with opioid use disorder access to the gold standard of care: buprenorphine. This FDA-approved drug is known to reduce mortality from the disease by up to 50%. Removing barriers to this treatment will open the doors to healing and recovery for millions. Further, the MAT Act should reduce the stigma of substance use disorders, combat discrimination and underscore the inherent dignity of all people.

Today, Tuesday January 24 at 11:30 am ET, [the White House will hold an online event](#) celebrating this important new law and encouraging health care providers to provide access to buprenorphine.

"We are gratified by the inclusion of multiple mental health provisions in the Omnibus bill that will positively impact many Good Shepherd agencies and those people they serve," said Fran Eskin-Royer.

Also with our partners, NAC worked with key Senate committees on a bi-partisan basis to develop and pass mental health provisions many of which were included in the Omnibus bill, such as new Medicare coverage for marriage and family therapists and counselors. It also will help address the gaping hole of too few mental health workers. At Good Shepherd agencies across the country, the behavioral healthcare workforce shortage is making it incredibly difficult to provide individuals in need of treatment with adequate care. At Good Shepherd Services in New York City, for instance, there are simply not enough child and adolescent psychiatrists to meet the demand for treatment throughout the city. As a result, the wait times for treatment are far too long. With passage of this bill, we look forward to people being able to receive needed treatment more quickly and easily.

[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 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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