



U.S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS HEALTH CARE REFORM

Robert Tessier
*Connecticut Coalition of
Taft-Hartley Funds*
President

One of the most significant decisions in decades was issued by the Supreme Court on Thursday, June 28. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court largely upheld the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, commonly referred to as Health Care Reform. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joined the liberal wing of the Supreme Court to uphold the law.

Louis Malzone
*Massachusetts Coalition
of Taft-Hartley Funds, Inc.*
Executive Vice President

In particular, the decision upheld the "individual mandate," which requires that nearly all Americans obtain health insurance. The Court held this mandate permissibly falls within the power of Congress to tax. The Court also upheld a provision of the law expanding Medicaid, but did find that Congress cannot penalize States that do not participate in the program by withdrawing existing Medicaid funding. All in all, as stated in Justice Ginsburg's separate opinion, "the Affordable Health Care Act survives largely unscathed." Approximately 35 million more Americans are expected to become eligible for health insurance coverage under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Michael Parks
*California Public Employee
Health Care Coalition*
Executive Vice President

Kristina Gaughan
*Midwest Employee Benefit
Funds Coalition*
Secretary

Undoubtedly, the 193 page decision will be subject to much scrutiny and the National Labor Alliance of Health Care Coalitions (NLA) itself will be reviewing this opinion. But in the end, this decision means health plans should proceed with plans to timely implement provisions and requirements of Health Care Reform. With uncertainty surrounding this law finally resolved the NLA expects federal regulators to make good on their commitment to provide guidance on how multiemployer plans will fit into state Health Insurance Exchanges.

Linda Vincent
Affiliated Health Funds
Treasurer

Douglas Rubbelke
*National Labor Alliance
of Health Care Coalitions*
Executive Director

The National Labor Alliance of Health Care Coalitions is a voluntary, not for profit alliance of twenty-three (23) regional labor health coalitions covering more than 10 million members and their families from Atlantic Canada to Alaska. Nationally, multiemployer health plans provide coverage for approximately 26 million Americans today.

June 28, 2012