



National
Association
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Hospitals
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NAPH Pleased Court Upholds Individual Mandate, Concerned by Decision's Potential Limits on Medicaid Expansion

Statement attributable to:
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President and Chief Executive Officer
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WASHINGTON, DC – “We are pleased by the Court’s decision today to uphold the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA’s) individual mandate, which will broadly expand health care coverage. We also are pleased that the decision retains other positive elements of the ACA, including initiatives to promote innovation, preventive care, and community-based collaborations.

“But our initial assessment of the decision leaves us concerned by its potential to limit Medicaid expansion, which could strand millions of our most disadvantaged people without access to basic health care coverage.

“The decision could allow states to opt out of the ACA’s expansion of Medicaid coverage to people below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. While the ACA provides substantial support to states to expand Medicaid, we are concerned many states will choose not to expand coverage. Indeed, in the 26 states that participated in the federal lawsuit, more than 27 million people have no insurance and many who would have been eligible for Medicaid in 2014 might no longer have that option.

“We hope states choose to do the right thing. But we cannot base federal policy on hope alone. NAPH urges Congress to avert a potentially disastrous outcome for vulnerable populations by immediately reevaluating safety net funding in light of this decision.

“Safety net hospitals and health systems lead innovation in quality of care and access, and do so with limited resources. We must support safety net patients and the hospitals and health systems that serve them with a stronger funding commitment.”

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About the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)

NAPH represents the nation’s safety net hospitals and health systems, which provide high volumes of care to low-income individuals. These facilities offer high-quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to helping ensure access to health care for all Americans, safety net hospitals provide many essential communitywide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Safety net hospitals also train many of America’s doctors, nurses, and other health care providers. Since its inception in 1980, NAPH has cultivated a strong presence on Capitol Hill, with the executive branch, and in many state capitols. NAPH advocates on behalf of its members on such issues as Medicaid, Medicare, and access to health care services for vulnerable populations. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.naph.org/>.