



June 17, 2021

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## Statement of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

### On U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in *California v Texas*

#### Victory for West Virginians: Affordable Care Act Will Continue to Help All of Us

Today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *California v Texas* makes it clear that the Affordable Care Act will continue to help West Virginians have affordable access to the health care they need to move forward, work, and take care of their families.

The Court ruled 7-2 that Republican-led states and two individuals do not have standing to bring a constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act. The case was thrown out.

The stakes for West Virginians in *California v Texas* could not have been higher. This lawsuit put our families, friends, and neighbors at risk of losing their insurance, at risk of financial devastation, and put lives on the line. West Virginians for Affordable Health Care applauds this decision:

- VICTORY: [198,000 West Virginians no longer face the risk of losing affordable health insurance coverage](#), that would have led to a 181% increase in the uninsured rate in our state.
- VICTORY: Even a conservative study found more than [380,000 West Virginians have a declinable pre-existing condition](#) under the harsh and discriminatory practices of insurance companies before the passage of the Affordable Care Act. These West Virginians and many more with pre-existing conditions will no longer risk insurance coverage denials or offers of insurance with very high premiums and with exclusion riders that left insurance plans with more holes than covered services.
- VICTORY: West Virginia will not [lose \\$1.1 billion in federal funds](#) supporting Medicaid/CHIP care and Marketplace subsidies. Funds that make insurance coverage affordable and stimulates our state economy and creates jobs.

Republican State Attorney General brought this lawsuit, including West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey.

“Attorney General Morrisey refused to reconsider his position even though the Affordable Care Act has been a real lifesaver for millions of West Virginians during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is time to stop the frivolous attacks and start to build on and improve the Affordable Care Act,” state Kathleen Stoll, Policy Director, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care.

Building on and improving the Affordable Care Act is exactly what Congress voted to do on March 11<sup>th</sup> of this year when the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed to provide financial relief to American families hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan’s temporary improvements to the Affordable Care Act’s premium tax credit made coverage more accessible and affordable for more hard-working West Virginia families who don’t have affordable employer-based health insurance:

- The ARPA lowered premium costs for 17,000 West Virginians. According to the [HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation](#), the ARPA raised the proportion of West Virginians in the marketplace who can buy insurance for \$50 a month or less from 36% to 64%. This increase was the highest affordability gain of any state.
- Almost 4,000 uninsured West Virginians became eligible for free health insurance coverage.

“The Supreme Court decision opens the door for Congress to build on the successes of the Affordable Care Act,” stated Dr. Jessica Ice, Executive Director, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. “Over the summer, Congress will be debating whether to make lower premiums permanent in the Affordable Care Act. West Virginians for Affordable Health Care calls on our Congressional Delegation to stand up for West Virginia families by not letting the temporary larger tax credits and lower premiums at [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) just disappear.”

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