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PRESS RELEASE

Supreme Court Upholds Health Care Law: Physicians' Group Praises Ruling

(Washington, D.C.) – Today the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The National Physicians Alliance (NPA) praised the ruling, citing the benefits of the health care law for America's families:

NPA President Dr. Valerie Arkoosh: "Physicians and families across America are celebrating today.

Today we've learned that benefits like secure coverage for children with pre-existing conditions will not be eliminated. Seniors will see an end to the prescription drug donut hole. Freedom of choice over health care decisions is returned to patients and physicians, who are now protected from the whims of insurance companies. At last, the country is moving in a healthy direction on health care."

Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH, is Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

NPA President-Elect Dr. Cheryl Bettigole: "Under the Affordable Care Act, millions of young adults have secured coverage through their parents' insurance, seniors are getting vital preventive care under Medicare, and insurance companies will be prohibited from discriminating against women by charging them more than men for the same coverage. Along with guaranteeing new protections, the law is streamlining insurance paperwork, allowing doctors to spend more time with patients and less time fighting with insurance companies."

Cheryl Bettigole, MD, MPH, is a family physician and the Chief Medical Officer of Complete Care Health Network, a group of community health centers serving southern New Jersey.

NPA Immediate Past-President, Dr. David Evans: "As a family physician, I feel that our health care system is finally pointing in the right direction. The human and economic costs of millions of American citizens unable to obtain health insurance are finally addressed by the law's bold consumer protections, expansions of coverage, and commitment to preventive health. The law promotes care coordination, provides for the training of more primary care doctors and nurses, and ensures coverage of many preventive health services without co-pays."

David Evans, MD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

NPA Founder and Past President Dr. Lydia Vaias: "As a surgeon with years of experience studying and advocating for health care reform, I can say with certainty that the Supreme Court has saved millions of lives with this historic ruling. While the court's decision will not put an end to the political debate around health care in an election year, it does clarify that the unregulated financial self-interest of insurance companies can no longer dictate the conditions under which I care for my patients. Physicians and patients are well served by this ruling, and by the Affordable Care Act."

Lydia Vaias, MD, MPH, is a board-certified general surgeon in southern California.

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Uniting physicians across medical specialties, the National Physicians Alliance creates research and education programs that promote active engagement of health care providers with their communities to achieve high quality, affordable health care for all. The NPA offers a professional home to physicians who share a commitment to professional integrity and health justice. The NPA strictly refuses financial entanglements with the pharmaceutical and biomedical industries. www.npalliance.org