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### **LPCA Statement on Affordable Care Act Ruling**

*ACA Ruling Threatens Access to Healthcare for Millions of Americans, Including 480,000+ Louisianans Depending on Medicaid Expansion*

Baton Rouge, LA – Last week, as consumers prepared for the final day of open enrollment, a federal judge in Texas delivered his bombshell ruling declaring the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional. Judge Reed O'Connor, who serves the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas, explained that due to last year's repeal of the tax penalty that made up the individual mandate, the Affordable Care Act no longer meets constitutional muster under the Interstate Commerce Clause.

After ten years of Congressional opposition and endless court challenges – including a landmark 2012 Supreme Court decision -- the Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues to serve as a lightning rod for controversy and political debate.

What we do know is that the ACA has proven to be a life-saver for millions of Americans across our country, especially here in Louisiana. The ACA has positively impacted patients by protecting those with pre-existing conditions and even allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance plan until age 26. By expanding Medicaid eligibility, over 480,000 of our family members, friends, and neighbors now have affordable access to important preventive and primary care services. While admittedly this law has its flaws, it nevertheless continues to serve as the foundation for a more equitable healthcare system that has been successful in reducing the rate of those who are uninsured.

Louisiana's Community Health Centers and the patients they serve should know that nothing has changed with respect to the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. While this ruling goes through appeal, patients can rest assured knowing that the ACA is still in place and that they can continue to rely on their local health centers for enrollment help.

With Louisiana's medically underserved patients as our number one priority, the Louisiana Primary Care Association and our state/national partners will continue to follow developments while educating our policy makers on the importance of affordable and accessible healthcare for all.

#### **About the Louisiana Primary Care Association**

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) represents 36 federally funded, private, non-profit and public Community Health Centers across Louisiana that serve over 420,000 patients annually. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, and collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to ensure that every Louisianan has access to affordable, quality, primary care services. For more information, visit [www.LPCA.net](http://www.LPCA.net).

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