

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2011

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**THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT FILES AMICUS BRIEF
WITH U.S. SUPREME COURT ON AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

LOS ANGELES, CA – Today The California Endowment filed a ‘friend of the court’ brief, offering relevant facts, case studies and informative research to the Supreme Court of the United States as it decides whether to hear a case regarding the Affordable Care Act, the new federal health care law. The filing was prepared by California Endowment counsel Kathleen M. Sullivan, one of the nation’s preeminent appellate litigators at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP.

In the *Florida v. Department of Health and Human Services* case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in August found the “minimum coverage requirement” contained in the statute to be unconstitutional.

“The California Endowment is a major health foundation in the nation’s largest state and thus, has both an interest in and an obligation to inform the Court with relevant facts and research in matters concerning the health status of millions,” said Dr. Robert K. Ross, president and CEO of The Endowment. **“Our filing is intended to help the Court decide whether or not to hear such a case; we have funded long term studies and amassed a goldmine of data and information about the state of California. We know that the Affordable Care Act will positively impact the health of communities in our state and its implementation is core to our mission of ensuring all Californians have access to health care services.”**

The Endowment’s amicus curiae brief offers facts based on California research related specifically to the Eleventh Circuit’s conclusions regarding the ‘minimum coverage requirement’ included in the law. The brief makes two key points:

1. The minimum coverage requirement is strongly linked to commerce because uninsured Californians are more likely than insured Californians to use expensive hospital emergency rooms for routine care and to go without care due to cost.
2. The minimum coverage requirement is an essential part of making the Affordable Care Act work. The law cannot successfully increase health insurance coverage and reduce costs without the requirement.

“The Eleventh Circuit’s decision deserves review by the U.S. Supreme Court for numerous reasons,” said Endowment attorney Kathleen M. Sullivan. She added, **“Evidence from the State of California and its recent experiences with the Affordable Care Act help to show why the Court should grant review and reaffirm Congress's authority to ensure that its regulation of the interstate health care market is effective.”**

The California Endowment’s amicus curiae brief can be viewed **HERE**:

<http://www.calendow.org/Article.aspx?id=5873>

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The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation, was established in 1996 to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. Headquartered in downtown Los Angeles, The Endowment has regional offices in Sacramento, Oakland, Fresno and San Diego, with program staff working throughout the state. The Endowment challenges the conventional wisdom that medical settings and individual choices are solely responsible for people's health. The Endowment believes that health happens in neighborhoods, schools, and with prevention. For more information, visit The California Endowment's homepage at www.calendow.org.