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CONTACT: Larry McNeely  
Health Care Advocate  
(202) 546-9707  
[lmcneely@pirg.org](mailto:lmcneely@pirg.org)  
Tweeting [@HealthCarePIRG](https://twitter.com/HealthCarePIRG)

### **Virginia Ruling Would Cost Consumers if Affirmed by Higher Courts**

*Statement by U.S. PIRG [Health Care Advocate Larry McNeely](#) on the ruling issued today by Judge Henry E. Hudson on *Commonwealth v. Sebelius*, a lawsuit challenging the new federal health care law and its minimum coverage requirement.*

Judge Henry Hudson's ruling today is simply bad for consumers.

If higher courts affirm Hudson's ruling, Americans with insurance would be left with more than \$1000 a year in higher insurance premiums because too many of those without coverage will continue to use the Emergency Room as their primary care.

Fortunately, federal courts in Michigan and Virginia have ruled in favor of the new law, and the issue will likely be resolved by higher courts before the minimum coverage requirement goes into effect and any negative impacts can be felt by consumers.

If these lawsuits ultimately prevail, the only winners will be the industry interests who will once again be free to drive up costs and deny coverage.

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