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**CONTACT: Brandon Hersh**  
**323.892.2080 or [bhersh@griffinschake.com](mailto:bhersh@griffinschake.com)**

**BREAKING: U.S. SUPREME COURT AGREES TO HEAR CASE  
ON AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

*The California Endowment Brief Helped Illustrate the Human Cost of  
Inaction in the State with Highest Number of Uninsured.*

**\*\*AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT - Media Who Wish To Speak With California  
Endowment CEO Dr. Ross or Attorney Kathleen M. Sullivan, should contact  
[Brandon Hersh bhersh@griffinschake.com](mailto:bhersh@griffinschake.com) or 323.892.2080\*\***

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – Today the United States Supreme Court agreed to review the Eleventh Circuit’s decision in *Florida v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, a case which involves a challenge to the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, President Obama’s signature legislative accomplishment that requires nearly all Americans have health insurance by 2014.

Last month, The California Endowment filed a ‘friend of the court’ brief offering relevant facts, case studies and informative research to the Supreme Court as it decided whether to hear a case regarding the Affordable Care Act. The filing was prepared by The California Endowment counsel Kathleen M. Sullivan, one of the nation’s preeminent appellate litigators at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP.

**“Our hope is that the brief we filed, dense with jaw-dropping statistics and research, helped show the Justices the human cost of inaction in the state with the highest number of uninsured,”** said Dr. Robert K. Ross, president and CEO of The Endowment. He continued, **“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, filed in support of the federal government’s petition seeking review of the Eleventh Circuit decision, offered facts based on California research related specifically to the Eleventh Circuit’s conclusions regarding the ‘minimum coverage requirement’ included in the law. The brief made two key points:

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. 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.

**“I am pleased that the Supreme Court agreed to resolve the constitutionality of the minimum coverage requirement in the Affordable Care Act,”** said Endowment attorney Kathleen M. Sullivan. She added, **“Evidence from the State of California and its recent experiences with the Affordable Care Act helped to show the Court why it 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](http://www.calendow.org).