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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON U.S. SUPREME COURT HEARING OF TEXAS V. CALIFORNIA

Statement of Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO

*In advance of today's Supreme Court hearing on **Texas v. California**, the lawsuit filed by a Texas-led group of states and several individuals challenging the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in response to the zeroing out of the individual mandate penalty, HPA issued the following statement:*

"Since passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, New York has done more over the last decade than almost any other state to expand health care coverage, bolster services for its most vulnerable residents and improve the quality of care. Today's Supreme Court hearing to consider the validity of the ACA over the elimination of the individual mandate threatens to jeopardize those efforts and the coverage of millions of New Yorkers.

"If the Court overturns some or all of the ACA, the decision could have significant consequences for New York, especially if it eliminates subsidies for individuals and funding for the Essential Plan. This would be devastating to residents who rely on this support for their coverage and would undercut the gains of our state's health reform efforts. Although many of the ACA's consumer protections, including prohibitions on exclusions for preexisting conditions and guaranteed availability of coverage, have been codified into state law, the case itself threatens the stability of the health care system and would affect the quality and affordability of health care for all New Yorkers.

"While we hope that the Supreme Court will agree that the district court's original decision to invalidate the entire ACA was misguided and wrong, we remain committed to continuing to work with Governor Cuomo and his administration, legislative leaders, and stakeholders across the state on measures to make health care more affordable for consumers and employers."

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 28 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.