



Representing the shared advocacy interests of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)

June 28, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suburban Hospital Alliance Reaction to Supreme Court Decision

Kevin Dahill, President and CEO of the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, the advocacy organization representing 51 hospitals in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, offered the following statement in response to published reports on the Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of various provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

“The Supreme Court’s reported decision to uphold the mandate on individuals to purchase health insurance is a victory for the millions of Americans who currently do not have access to health insurance or cannot afford it. The ruling preserves the legislation’s delicate balance between the needs for a robust and competitive insurance market, financial stability for health care providers, and affordable coverage for consumers.

“Hospitals made a substantial commitment to changing the health care delivery system in exchange for expanded coverage. Those reforms are well underway, but much more work must be done. It remains that the Affordable Care Act is an enormously complex statute. Whether or not it ultimately succeeds will depend in large part on how states, including our own, set up the insurance exchanges from which the uninsured will be able to purchase coverage. We are committed to working closely with employers, insurers and the State of New York to create as efficient an environment as possible.

“We are concerned about the Supreme Court’s decision to curtail the mandate on states to provide expanded coverage to low-income individuals under the Medicaid program. New York is one of a handful of states that already go above and beyond the federal requirements, and is also deeply engaged in reforms to its Medicaid program that will make it more efficient and better able to meet the challenges of health care reform. Our state should be rewarded for these efforts. We hope that Congress and the Administration’s interpretation of this section of the ruling will continue to provide support and flexibility for states that have expanded coverage through their own initiatives.”

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