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Georgia's participation in health care repeal lawsuit is destabilizing for Georgia families and the health system

Atlanta, Georgia - Statement by Laura Colbert, Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future regarding today's hearing of the California v. Texas lawsuit by the Supreme Court of the United States. The lawsuit seeks to invalidate the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Georgia is a plaintiff in the case.

"In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgians deserve certainty and stability in their health coverage and access to care. When health insurance is more valuable than ever for the peace of mind and health benefits that it provides, the state's pursuit of this lawsuit puts Georgians and their families on uncertain and shaky ground.

"Since its passage more than 10 years ago, the ACA has become as much a part of the foundation of Georgia's health systems as the 50-year-old Medicaid and Medicare programs. More than 480,000 Georgians enrolled in health coverage through the ACA's marketplace in 2020. Nine in ten benefit from financial help to reduce their costs. Seniors pay less for their prescriptions than they did before. Insurers are held accountable for their profits compared to what they spend on actual health services. Every Georgian—whether they know it or not—benefits from the standards and protections put in place by the ACA.

"If the Supreme Court were to strike down the ACA, the consequences would be felt personally and deeply by Georgia. Thousands of Georgians would lose their health coverage, protections for pre-existing conditions, and access to basic health services like mental health care and prescription drugs. Revoking the ACA's protections and disentangling the law from Georgia's health care system would be chaotic and confusing at a time when stability is paramount.

"The collapse of the ACA, if this lawsuit leads to that, would be disproportionately felt by Georgians of color and rural Georgians. These groups are already shouldering the heaviest burdens of the pandemic and face unfair barriers to care. This case and Georgia's participation in it only serves to further destabilize communities that have already been knocked off balance.

"The support of this lawsuit by Georgia Governor Kemp and Attorney General Carr undermine their own stated intentions to lead our state through this pandemic, keep families and the economy whole and healthy, and increase access to health care for Georgia families and individuals. We urge Georgia leaders to re-consider their support of this case.



“It is important for Georgia consumers to know that this does not change the coverage they have today or their 2021 insurance plans. Georgians should take advantage of the current open enrollment period and enroll before the Dec. 15th deadline for 2021 coverage. This is especially important for those who have lost their job-based health coverage or experienced other life changes in recent months due to COVID-19.”

For more information about Georgia consumers and Georgia’s ACA health insurance marketplace: [Getting Georgia Covered 2020](#)

About GHF:

With a mission to build and mobilize a unified voice, vision, and leadership to achieve a healthy future for all Georgians, Georgians for a Healthy Future provides a strong voice for Georgia consumers and communities on the health care issues and decisions that impact their lives. Georgians for a Healthy Future has a three-pronged approach which includes: 1) outreach, education, and engagement with consumers and communities; 2) coalition building and mobilization; and 3) public policy advocacy. For more information, visit www.healthyfuturega.org.