

## PRESS STATEMENT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GHF Statement on The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision to Uphold ACA's Guaranteed Free Coverage of Vaccines and Preventive Services.**

**ATLANTA** – Georgians for a Healthy Future released a statement in response to Friday's U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision on *Braidwood v. Becerra*. The court's decision largely preserved the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) requirement for health insurers in Georgia and nationwide to provide coverage of certain preventive services like colorectal and breast cancer screenings, vaccinations, and mental health screenings at no cost. For now, this decision affirms that over 150 million Americans, including [4.6 million Georgians](#), will continue to have access to essential preventive care without out-of-pocket costs.

*"We are pleased with the Court's decision to uphold the ACA's protections of no-cost, life saving preventive services. This ruling is a relief for Georgians who rely on these benefits to understand their risks for serious and chronic conditions, and to prevent or identify health issues early when they're treatable and manageable," said Georgians for a Healthy Future Executive Director Laura Colbert. "While these services appear to be safe for now, the court's decision has left a door open for future challenges. In light of this uncertainty, GHF will continue to monitor this issue and remains committed to advocating for policies that ensure all Georgians have access to the preventive care they need to lead healthy lives."*

While this decision preserves critical preventive care access for now, it paves the way for future legal challenges that could threaten these protections. The ongoing court proceedings are likely to continue, leaving in jeopardy the requirement to provide hundreds of millions of Americans with access to essential services like:

- Free contraception & STI counseling

- Free mental health & substance use screenings
- Free routine infant & child health care
- Free heart disease risk factor health screenings
- Free pregnancy screenings & treatments
- Access to free flu, pneumonia, and meningitis vaccinations

A full list of the no-cost services approved by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is [available here](#).

*“Health insurers in Georgia should take this opportunity to publicly commit to continuing no-cost coverage of preventive health services regardless of the outcomes of future court decisions. Georgia’s lawmakers also have the option to codify these benefits in our state law—a move that would certainly earn bipartisan support from families across the state who are already shouldering the ever-growing costs of health care and help ensure the future success of our new Georgia Access health insurance marketplace,” Ms. Colbert added.*

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### **Georgians For a Healthy Future**

Georgians for a Healthy Future collaborates with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health. We do this by delivering actionable health policy information to policymakers and advocates; providing resources to help consumers become strong advocates, and elevating the consumer experience to inform policy change. Read more at [healthyfuturegeorgia.org](http://healthyfuturegeorgia.org)

#### **GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE**

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