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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE: GHF Statement on the Supreme Court's Mixed Ruling on No-Cost Preventive Care and What It Means for Georgia

Supreme Court Preserves Life-Saving Preventive Care for 5 Million Georgians:
Historic ruling protects no-cost access to cancer screenings, HIV prevention, and
mental health services.

ATLANTA, GA — Georgians for a Healthy Future celebrates today's landmark Supreme Court decision in Kennedy v. Braidwood Management that preserves access to no-cost preventive healthcare services for over <u>5 million Georgians</u> with private insurance.

"This decision protects what works," said Laura Colbert, Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future. "Since 2010, these services have helped catch cancers early, prevented maternal deaths, and kept Georgia families healthy while saving money for everyone."

What This Means for Georgia Families: The ruling ensures Georgians will continue receiving essential preventive services without out-of-pocket costs, including:

- Lung cancer screenings for current and former smokers
- Colorectal cancer screenings for adults under age 50
- · Mental health and substance use screenings for all ages
- · Medication to prevent heart disease in adults
- Using low-cost, effective medication to treat pregnant women at risk of preeclampsia

Georgia's Unique Stakes: The decision is particularly significant for Georgia's vulnerable communities. Communities of color, who face higher rates of preventable diseases, maintain access to early intervention services that catch conditions before they become costly and life-threatening. With Georgia ranking 38th nationally in overall health outcomes, preserving access to preventive care is crucial for improving population health.

Continued Advocacy: While celebrating this victory, Georgians for a Healthy Future remains committed to strengthening health care access. We will continue to advocate for <u>Senate Bill 262</u>, which would provide state-level protections for preventive care coverage, regardless of future federal policy changes.

"We cannot take this victory for granted," **Colbert said.** "While the Supreme Court has protected preventive care for now, we must continue advocating for state-level safeguards and expanded access to ensure all Georgians can get the care they need."

What Georgians Should Do:

- Continue using all covered preventive services
- Schedule overdue screenings like mammograms, colonoscopies, and annual check-ups
- Ask healthcare providers about HIV prevention options if at risk
- Review insurance benefits to understand the full range of covered services
- Stay engaged in advocacy efforts to protect and expand healthcare access

The decision represents a major victory for evidence-based healthcare policy and health equity. With access to preventive care preserved, Georgia families can continue to focus on staying healthy rather than worrying about the cost of essential medical services.

Resources for Georgians:

- Find covered preventive services: healthcare.gov/coverage/preventive-care-benefits
- Locate community health centers: findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov
- Georgia Department of Public Health services: dph.georgia.gov

Correction: An earlier version of this release misstated the details of the Court's ruling regarding constitutionality and severability. The language has been updated to accurately reflect the Court's decision.

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 healthyfuturega.org



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