

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2015

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Statement by Tevi D. Troy, President of the American Health Policy Institute, on *King v. Burwell* Ruling

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Obama Administration in the case of *King v. Burwell*, meaning that the IRS can effectively continue to extend the tax credit subsidies to coverage purchased through exchanges established by the federal government—as outlined in the Affordable Care Act. As a result of this decision, the insurance subsidies will be preserved for otherwise eligible purchasers of health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without regard to whether they purchase their insurance on a federally established or a state established health insurance exchange. This is not, however, the end of the conversation about the ACA.

Today, 169 million Americans currently receive health care from their employer, but it is questionable if this trend will continue in the years to come with the increasingly lack of affordability of average family premiums and deductibles as well as the looming health care excise tax, which will hit the average value plan come 2031.

As a result of these and other uncertainties, we will continue to see a lot of discussion on the ACA leading up to the 2016 presidential election. Republicans will now turn their focus to 2016 and getting one of their party's candidates elected as president and attempting to repeal or significantly reform the law. Democrats, on the other hand, may see the case as a tipping point for the law's acceptance and the discussion could then turn to making badly needed changes to the law. Either way, the climate may be ripe for ACA changes in 2017, regardless of which party wins the White House.

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American Health Policy Institute (AHPI) is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) think tank, established to examine the impact of health policy on large employers, and to explore and propose policies that will help bolster the ability of large employers to provide quality, affordable health care to employees and their dependents. The Affordable Care Act has catalyzed a national debate about the future of health care in the United States, and AHPI serves to provide thought leadership grounded in the practical experience of America's largest employers. To learn more, visit americanhealthpolicy.org.