



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 25, 2015

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**DHSS hails Supreme Court decision affirming Affordable Care Act**  
*SCOTUS affirms legality of federal subsidies to purchase health care*

ANCHORAGE —The U.S. Supreme Court decided in favor of the defendant today in the case of King v. Burwell. In a 6 to 3 decision, the court ruled that federal subsidies are legal in states such as Alaska that did not establish state-based health insurance exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“We applaud the court’s decision, which will allow thousands of Alaskans to continue to receive affordable health care,” said DHSS Commissioner Valerie Davidson.

According to the Division of Insurance, 89 percent of Alaskans who purchased health insurance for the 2015 plan year through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace are receiving federal financial assistance in the form of the advance premium tax credits. For the 2015 plan year, Alaskans receiving the subsidy pay on average \$105 per month for their coverage.

“Without the federal subsidy, many of the nearly 19,000 Alaskans who receive the credit would likely have discontinued their coverage, leaving them uninsured,” said Lori Wing-Heier, director of the Division of Insurance. “We are relieved that the Supreme Court’s ruling safeguards thousands of Alaskans’ access to affordable health care insurance.”

The King v. Burwell case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 4, 2015.

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