

13 Jewish Organizations Support Affordable Access to Health Care; Reject Challenge in *King v. Burwell*

March 4, 2015

The undersigned American Jewish organizations and communities are committed to supporting access to affordable, quality health coverage for all. We are following the Supreme Court's deliberation in *King v. Burwell* as the health care of millions of individuals — and truly, the lives of at least 10,000 individuals per year — hangs in the balance.

As Jews, we believe each person is created *b'tzelem elohim*, in the image of G-d. Each of us is equally deserving of access to services that enable us to get care when we need it, without jeopardizing our financial future or foregoing other human needs like housing or food. This value is illustrated by Maimonides, a revered Jewish scholar, who centuries ago listed health care as the most important communal services that a city had to offer to its residents (Mishneh Torah, Hilchot De'ot IV: 23). Jewish tradition is clear: health care must not be exclusively for the affluent; it must be available to all residents of a society.

At issue in *King v. Burwell* are the tax credits made available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to help eligible individuals afford the purchase of quality coverage in the health insurance marketplace. The tax credits are critical to millions of people in our communities who are struggling to make ends meet, but who are no less deserving of coverage than those who can afford to obtain it without financial help. Among the millions enrolled in the marketplace, tax credits have helped nearly 4 out of 5 people get covered.

Insurance coverage enables individuals and families to access a range of critical health services without risking their economic security. From regular check-ups and cancer screenings, to maternity care and prescription medications, health care is integral to a long and healthy life. Without the ACA's tax credits, between eight and ten million individuals, including a majority of women, and an additional five million children, stand to lose this security. Thousands per year may die from lack of access to health care.

As members of the American Jewish community, we share a firm belief that protecting affordable access to health care is a moral imperative. We hope the Court will uphold this critical affordability provision which is a part of the landmark Affordable Care Act.

Signed,

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Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice

Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish Women International

Keshet

National Council of Jewish Women

Nehirim

North American Federation of Temple Youth

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Union for Reform Judaism

Women of Reform Judaism

Women's League of Conservative Judaism

The Workmen's Circle

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