



## CLIENT BULLETIN

### ***Supreme Court Rules That The PPACA Is Constitutional***

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The United States Supreme Court ruled that the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)* is Constitutional. The requirement for individuals to purchase health insurance coverage survives as an exercise of Congress' taxing power. The section of the law expanding the Medicaid program is also upheld; however, Congress cannot penalize States that choose not to participate in the new program by taking away their existing Medicaid funding. The part of the law giving that power to the Secretary of Health and Human Services is stricken.

So, folks... there is no reprieve from the law for individuals or health plans. Thus, the compliance deadlines for group health plans, including multiemployer health plans, remain the same.

We will be reviewing the opinion in detail in another issue.

The case is 193 pages and is available by "[clicking here.](#)"

No doubt that since this is an election year both parties will offer competing views of where to go from here. One thing seems clear: the United States health care delivery system is bankrupting the country and change is needed.

One might find the report and charts by The Commonwealth Fund a helpful starter on the health care systems of other countries, which seem to deliver health care services in a much more affordable manner than the U.S. does. The Commonwealth Fund report is available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Issue-Briefs/2012/May/High-Health-Care-Spending.aspx>. The Report is also available by "[clicking here](#)" and just the charts are available by "[clicking here.](#)" The [NIHCM Foundation Data Brief, U.S. Health Care Spending: The Big Picture](#), takes a close look at US health care spending.

Now that all doubts have been erased as to its Constitutionality, the *PPACA* implementation will continue, barring any change in the balance of power after the fall elections. So, the order of the day is business as usual.

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