Immune Deficiency Foundation Response to the Supreme Court Decision on the Affordable Care Act

TOWSON, MD, June 28, 2012—The Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF) has been working with other patient organizations representing plasma users and other rare diseases throughout the two-year debate on healthcare reform that led to the Affordable Care Act and since its passage to ensure that insurance reforms benefit patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases. Essential reforms contained in the Affordable Care Act that IDF successfully advocated for include the elimination of discrimination based on pre-existing medical conditions, elimination of annual and lifetime insurance coverage caps, limits to annual out-of-pocket costs and the elimination of the ability of insurers to discontinue coverage for people because of a new medical diagnoses.

Today, the United States Supreme Court voted 5-4 to uphold the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. The provision requiring that all Americans have health insurance, known as the individual mandate, which had been contested by some as an overreach of Federal powers, was ruled constitutional under Congress’ power to tax as the Court determined the responsibility payment for not having health insurance in the law should be considered a tax.

With the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold the Affordable Care Act, IDF remains focused on assuring that these critically needed insurance reforms are fully implemented to help Americans with primary immunodeficiency diseases access desperately needed medical care. IDF continues to work tirelessly to ensure that the primary immunodeficiency community is educated about current health care policies and that individuals living with primary immunodeficiency diseases and other rare conditions remain a priority of concern for policymakers as these provisions are implemented.

To read the full opinion of the Supreme Court, please visit http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/11pdf/11-393c3a2.pdf

Please continue to check the Advocacy Center and the Policy Matters blog on IDF’s website for updates, clarifications, and webinars at http://primaryimmune.org/idf-advocacy-center

Thank you for your efforts,

Marcia Boyle
President & Founder