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Children's Advocacy Institute Joins NHeLP Amicus Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court Supporting the Affordable Care Act

For Immediate Release
February 16, 2012

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Washington, DC – Today the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) of the University of San Diego School of Law joined the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) and thirty-eight prominent organizations of health care providers, consumers, and local health officials from around the country in an amicus brief before the United States Supreme Court supporting the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Medicaid expansion.

The NHeLP brief examines the nature and history of the Medicaid program from its enactment. The brief places the ACA's expansion – which extends coverage to eligible persons up to 133% of the Federal poverty level – in this historical and legal context. Since 1965, Medicaid has operated as a voluntary joint partnership between states and the federal government. While Congress has made a number of changes to the program over time, Medicaid's core framework has not changed and is not altered by the ACA.

"Our brief brings together decades of experience and expertise from public health advocates, providers, and health officials from around the nation, working on behalf of and serving vulnerable communities that rely on Medicaid," said Jane Perkins, NHeLP legal director. "For over forty-five years, Medicaid has played a critical role in expanding access to health care for millions of low-income individuals. The ACA's Medicaid expansion is consistent with the history and purpose of the Medicaid program and will provide an additional 16 million individuals with health coverage they otherwise would not be able to afford."

A copy of the amicus brief is available [here](#). The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments for and against the ACA on March 26th – 28th. The challenge to the Medicaid expansion is scheduled for March 28th.

CAI works to improve the health, safety, and well being of children. In addition to an academic component, CAI engages in regulatory and legislative advocacy, impact litigation and public education in order to ensure that children's interests are represented effectively whenever and wherever government makes policy and budget decisions that will impact them. Visit www.caichildlaw.org.

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