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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Attorney General Brown Calls on U.S. Supreme Court to Protect Access to Preventive Healthcare Services** *Coalition of 24 AGs File Amicus Asking SCOTUS to Protect ACA Provision*

**BALTIMORE, MD (October 22, 2024)** – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has joined a coalition of 24 attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) asking the U.S. Supreme Court to act to protect a key provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that guarantees access to critical preventive care for millions of Americans. Attorney General Brown and the coalition urge the U.S. Supreme Court to grant review of a lower court’s decision that prohibits the federal government from enforcing aspects of the preventive services provision – a decision that will reduce access to lifesaving medical care.

Congress enacted the ACA’s preventive services provision because, before the ACA’s enactment, many Americans struggled to afford preventive care, which can be lifesaving but was often not covered by insurance. The preventive services provision eliminated this financial barrier by requiring most private insurance plans to cover certain preventive services and treatments, such as cancer screenings and vaccinations, without charging out-of-pocket costs, including copayments or deductibles.

“Preventative health services are protection against serious, deadly diseases. Access to this form of potentially life-saving healthcare gives Marylanders the chance to live long, healthy lives,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “Our office will always work to ensure that cost is not a barrier for Marylanders seeking access to these services.”

In the case of *Becerra v. Braidwood Management Inc.*, the coalition has asked the Supreme Court to review the lower court’s decision prohibiting enforcement of aspects of the preventive services provision. The coalition explains in its brief that this decision could cause a significant gap in health coverage that states will not be able to fill because federal law prevents them from regulating certain insurance plans. The brief also explains that state-level mandates are less effective without corresponding federal implementation and enforcement.

The brief further explains that since the ACA became law in 2010, the provision has significantly improved public health outcomes by expanding access to preventive services. For example, many Americans have come to rely on the no-cost healthcare access provided by the provision. Within four years of the ACA's passage, approximately 76 million Americans gained expanded coverage to one or more preventive services. As of 2020, an estimated 151.6 million people were enrolled in private insurance plans that cover preventive services at no cost to patients.

In addition to saving lives, the provision has expanded access to contraceptives and reduced socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic disparities in healthcare by expanding access to a variety of preventive services.

In filing the brief, Attorney General Brown joins the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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