

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General Luther Strange Praises Healthcare Ruling

(Montgomery) -Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange today praised a federal judge's ruling striking down the 2010 "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" ("the healthcare law"), otherwise known as "Obamacare."

Last year Alabama, along with 25 other states, the National Federation of Independent Business, and two individual plaintiffs, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the healthcare law on several grounds, including the fact that it forces individuals to purchase health insurance against their will. Today Judge Roger Vinson of the U.S. District Court in Pensacola ruled that Congress exceeded its authority in passing the Act with the individual mandate.

General Strange praised the decision: "This is a great ruling by Judge Vinson. By striking down the entire statute, the court has defended the unique system of federalism that the Framers envisioned when they crafted the Constitution. The State of Alabama is a plaintiff in this case, but we owe a great deal of gratitude to Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, who led the charge before Judge Vinson. Alabama will continue working with Florida and other States to continue defending the Constitution while this case makes its way to the United States Supreme Court."

"This is a critically important case for the American people," remarked General Strange. "Our Constitution says that the federal government is one of limited, enumerated powers. If Obamacare were upheld, then it would put us on a path where Congress could regulate each and every phase of our lives. Under the President's vision of the Constitution, Congress could require everyone in this country to buy a particular kind of car, or to use a particular kind of computer, or to drink a particular kind of coffee. That may be President Obama's view of the federal government's power under the Constitution. But it was not the Founders' view, and it is not the view of the freedom-loving people I am proud to serve."

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