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US Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Arguments on Obama's Affordable Care Act

Earlier today the US Supreme Court granted review of the appeals stemming from challenges to the Affordable Care (ACA) (a.k.a ObamaCare) and its mandate that all Americans have basic health insurance by 2014.

The Court said it will decide four questions that have arisen from the various lawsuits filed against the ACA:

- Is it constitutional for Congress to require all persons to have health insurance by 2014?
- If the above requirement is struck down, can it be "severed" from the law or must the entire ACA be scrapped?
- Are the lawsuits challenging the insurance coverage mandate barred by the Anti-injunction Act because the penalties for failing to buy insurance do not kick in until 2014?
- Is Congress violating the basic principles of federalism by forcing states to expand the Medicaid program by threatening to cut off all Medicaid funding?

The Court is likely to hear oral arguments sometime in March of 2012, with a decision likely to be published by June, 2012.