

# REPORTERS COMMITTEE

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## FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

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Lucy A. Dalglish  
Executive Director

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for purposes of identification.*

June 14, 2012

The Honorable John G. Roberts  
Supreme Court of the United States  
1 First Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: Request for Access to Audio Recording of the Announcement of the  
Court's opinion in *Nat'l Fed'n of Indep. Bus. v. Sebelius*, No. 11-393,  
*Florida v. Dep't of Health & Human Servs.*, No. 11-400, and  
*Dep't of Health & Human Servs. v. Florida*, No. 11-398

Dear Chief Justice Roberts,

On behalf of the media coalition comprised of the below-listed national and local news organizations, nonprofit associations representing newsgatherers, and trade groups, I write to respectfully request live audio access to the announcement of the Court's opinion in the three cases addressing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

As I outlined in my Nov. 18, 2011, request for live audio and video access of oral arguments in the case, the health care reform law deeply affects millions of Americans. There is a strong interest nationwide in the Court's opinion and any comments by a member of the Court that may accompany its announcement. Such access would allow the public to be informed of the Court's ruling in a timely manner.

I am aware that various members of the Court have expressed concern that live television coverage of its proceedings may negatively affect the character and flow of the back-and-forth discussion between attorneys and justices. But this interest is clearly not implicated when the proceeding at issue involves the summary of an opinion rather than the interaction at oral argument.

I respectfully request that the Court allow the American public the opportunity to learn contemporaneously or near-contemporaneously how it resolved one of the most significant issues to come before it in many years. I urge the Court to provide live audio and video coverage of its announcement in the same manner it provides delayed audio recordings of oral arguments. At the very least, I ask for release of such a recording immediately after the announcement.

Sincerely,

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

Lucy A. Dalglish, Executive Director  
Gregg P. Leslie, Legal Defense Director  
Kristen Rasmussen, McCormick Legal Fellow

***On behalf of the following:***

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**Allbritton Communications Company**  
**ALM Media, LLC**  
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**The Associated Press**  
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**Cable News Network, Inc.**  
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***Consumer Reports***  
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**The C-SPAN Networks**  
**Digital Media Law Project**  
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**First Amendment Coalition**  
**Gannett Co., Inc.**  
**Hearst Corporation**  
***Los Angeles Times***  
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**MPA – The Association of Magazine Media**  
**National Association of Broadcasters**  
**The National Press Club**  
**National Press Photographers Association**  
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**POLITICO LLC**  
**Reuters America LLC**  
**The Seattle Times Company**  
**Society of Professional Journalists**  
**Stephens Media LLC**  
**Time Inc.**  
**Tribune Company**  
**USA TODAY**  
***The Washington Post***  
**WNET**

cc: Associate Justice Antonin Scalia  
Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy  
Associate Justice Clarence Thomas  
Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer  
Associate Justice Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr.  
Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor  
Associate Justice Elena Kagan  
Gen. William K. Suter, Clerk