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News Release

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472,697 Pennsylvanians are Breathing Easier Today

A huge sigh of relief came from the 472,697 low and moderate-income working Pennsylvanians today. They are the ones who have enrolled in Pennsylvania's federally facilitated health insurance Marketplace and are receiving tax subsidies so they can afford health care. In a critically important King v. Burwell case that challenged the Affordable Care Act wording for subsidies given to the 27 federally facilitated state marketplaces nationwide, the Supreme Court said all who qualified for subsidies no matter who managed the Marketplaces was indeed the intent of the Affordable Care Act.

The Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition promptly praised the decision today. "This is a good day for the hard working women and men who struggle to make ends meet. Access to affordable health care is a critical component for economic self-sufficiency. Now families don't have to worry about going bankrupt if they or their kids get critically sick," said Tam St. Claire, President.

The Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition has been working for women to get access to appropriate health care for all family members since the group was founded eight years ago. The Affordable Care Act with subsidies that allow families to afford quality health care has come the closest to achieving those goals.

Women, with comparatively greater health care needs and lower incomes, are particularly vulnerable and concerned about access to health care coverage, affordability, scope of benefits, reproductive health, and long-term care. Before the ACA was passed, nearly two in five women who tried to buy individual insurance were turned down, charged a higher price, or had a preexisting condition excluded from coverage. According to a clinical research study published by the American Journal of Medicine in 2009, health care costs were the leading cause of personal bankruptcies. That all changes when the ACA opened the health insurance Marketplace for those who weren't offered health insurance from their employer and subsidies were given to those between 100%-400% of the federal poverty line. This is a critical component to affordability, healthier women and their families, and healthier communities.

The Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition is a non-partisan coalition of Bucks County individuals and non-profit organizations that serve women and girls. We empower, educate and advocate together to promote gender equality and economic self-sufficiency for all.

Currently over 100 individual Partners and 37 organizational Partners speak with one voice about the systemic public and private reforms needed to foster economic self-sufficiency of Bucks County women and their families.

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