

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

November 15, 2011

The Chief Justice  
The Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

I am writing to request that the Supreme Court exercise its discretion to permit television coverage of Supreme Court proceedings when the Court hears arguments in the case of the federal health care reform law. It is my understanding oral arguments will take place in March of next year.

The decision in this case has the potential to reach every American. The law is massive in size and scope. The effect of the law, and the Court's decision, will reverberate throughout the American economy.

The constitutional questions presented in the case are momentous. The public has a right to witness the legal arguments likely to be presented in the case: (1) the constitutionality of the individual mandate; (2) the severability of the individual mandate and whether or not the remainder of the law is valid without the mandate; and (3) the authority of Congress to impose mandatory Medicaid coverage thresholds on states. Given the nature of the topic, everyone in the country would benefit from following the proceedings in this landmark case.

Modern technology makes televising the proceedings before the Court simple and unobtrusive. A minimal number of cameras in the courtroom, which could be placed to be barely noticeable to all participants, would provide live coverage of what may be one of the most historic and important arguments of our time. Letting the world watch would bolster public confidence in our judicial system and in the decisions of the Court.

Providing live audio and video coverage of the oral arguments will be of great benefit to the Court and to the public. Letting the world watch these historic and important proceedings will bolster confidence in our judicial system and the decisions of the Court.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

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cc: The Honorable Antonin Scalia  
The Honorable Anthony M. Kennedy  
The Honorable Clarence Thomas  
The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
The Honorable Stephen G. Breyer  
The Honorable Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr.  
The Honorable Sonia Sotomayor  
The Honorable Elena Kagan