

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG STRANGE WELCOMES RULING IN HEALTH CARE CASE

(MONTGOMERY) – Today, U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson entered an order that is expected to ensure that the States’ challenge to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“PPACA”) is resolved quickly by the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Vinson’s previous order declared the entire statute unconstitutional. Today’s order stays that order for the time being, but only on the condition that the federal government seeks an expedited appeal of this case, and does so within seven days. Attorney General Luther Strange welcomed this ruling, observing that “today’s order from Judge Vinson will help move this case along toward an expeditious result, which is what the American people deserve.”

The order issued by Judge Vinson follows a motion filed by the U.S. Department of Justice seeking a “clarification” of the court’s January 31, 2011, ruling that the PPACA was unconstitutional. That ruling barred the PPACA’s enforcement. Alabama and the other plaintiff states contended that the ruling was clear, and that the DOJ’s filing was a stall tactic. Judge Vinson agreed.

The court chided the Obama administration for “ignor[ing] the order and declaratory judgment for two and one-half weeks . . . and only then fil[ing] a belated motion to ‘clarify.’” The court effectively told the Department of Justice that it had one week to file a notice of appeal and to request expedited review. If it does not, Judge Vinson will lift his stay, and the PPACA will again be halted.

“The court forced the federal government to end the delays,” remarked Attorney General Strange. “The PPACA will ultimately be struck down in the Supreme Court, and today’s ruling will help us get there faster.”

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