

## **Supreme Court's Affordable Care Act Ruling: The Day After**

*Collaboration, goal of best care must push aside uncertainty, anxiety*

The June 28 Supreme Court decisions on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) do not mean our work is done. All stakeholders must work together to help the state implement the provisions in the ACA in a way that works for all Minnesotans.

Nationally, we need make sure the law doesn't increase the cost of health care coverage for individuals and smaller employers. Under current state and federal laws, premiums paid by individuals and smaller employers will include 8.1 to 8.5 percent in taxes and assessments. In addition to the taxes, individuals who earn more than \$43,320 a year (\$88,200 for a family of four) will experience an additional increase in premium cost in 2014. That is not sustainable and Congress needs to act to make avoid these unintended consequences.

Locally, work continues to help slow rising costs while ensuring the best outcomes for individuals. Minnesota's health plans and health care providers have created unique contracts that change the incentives in the health care system. For example, clinics treating people with diabetes receive payment for not only tests and procedures the patient needs, but also for ensuring the person meets all five measures of great diabetes care while reducing the total cost of care for people with diabetes. Early results show these changes are both reducing overall costs and improving care. As the rest of the country waited for the Court rule, Minnesotans were taking action.

These overall changes are taking place in the Minnesota way—through pioneering collaboration among providers, consumers, employers and other stakeholders—all of whom share the goal of affordable high quality health care for all Minnesotans.

The University of Minnesota's health data center estimates that the provisions of the ACA will extend coverage to approximately 290,000 additional Minnesotans. Our community must work harder than ever to guarantee these new enrollees, along with the more than 4.3 million people already covered through our member health plans, receive the best, most affordable care.