

U. S. Supreme Court hears arguments on Obama's healthcare law requiring most Americans to have health insurance

Written by Kathy

Wednesday, 28 March 2012 09:30 - Last Updated Friday, 30 March 2012 11:26



WASHINGTON, D.C.-President Obama's sweeping healthcare law that was adopted by Congress in 2010 before a divided America and requires among other mandates that most Americans hold health insurance by 2014 or face a penalty is now before the conservative leaning U.S. Supreme Court with tense oral arguments from both sides ending on Wed.



At issue is the power of Congress to mandate that all Americans have healthcare insurance

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during a debilitating economy and whether the mandate is so overreaching that it gives rise to an unconstitutional requirement.

Challenging the law are 26 states, including Ohio, and a small-business trade group.

The nine justices, only Justice Clarence Thomas of whom is Black and who also is expected to vote against the law, are expected to issue a decision by June, just months before the president's reelection bid on November 6.

The court will decide which provisions of the controversial law to keep and which to throw out, if any.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy, both conservatives, are the most watched on the decision as they were the most aggressive in questioning lawyers for the Obama administration on the controversial issue.

The nation's high court is no doubt divided on the issue.

If the five conservative justices remain unified, the law would lose, but if only one conservative joins the four liberals, the law would be upheld.

"The Affordable Care Act addresses a fundamental and enduring problem in our healthcare system and our economy," said Solicitor General Donald Verrilli in arguing for the law on behalf of the Obama administration.

Obama has appointed two of the nine justices.

Sonia Sotomayer was appointed to replace Justice David Souter upon his retirement, and

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former Solicitor General Elena Kagan replaced John Paul Stevens, who also retired.

Both Sotomayer and Kagan are among the four liberal justices expected to endorse the law.

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