

June 28, 2012, the Supreme Court announced its ruling that the Affordable Care Act of President Obama is constitutional under Congress' taxation powers.

What does this mean for the American people?

Pros

Symbolized:

1. Young adults under 26 can stay on their parent's health care plan. **Y**

2. Seniors get a discount on prescription drugs (will save the senior about \$600 a year – close the “donut hole”). **S**

3. Each state will set up insurance exchanges, and starting in 2014, insurance companies will no longer be able to: **E . (~D . ~W . ~B)**
 - a. Discriminate against any American because of a preexisting condition **~ D**
 - b. Charge you more because you are a woman **~ W**
 - c. Bill you into bankruptcy **~ B**

Fallacy: Hasty Generalization

4. You'll get a credit that helps pay the premium if you can't afford it. **C**

If the above statements are true, then it would seem to follow that the Affordable Care Act is good for the American people.

But consider the following objections:

Cons

1. The Affordable Care Act requires Americans to have or buy health insurance beginning in 2014 or face a tax. **(H v X)**

2. Small firms with more than 50 full time employees, starting 2014, would have to provide coverage or face expensive fines. Jobs will be lost if small firms decide to have less than 50 employees to avoid providing health coverage. (P v F) . L > J
3. Expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare requires billions of dollars more in state and federal taxes, which is bad in a weak economy. M > T
4. Government programs are often unsuccessful, so this government program will be, too. G

Fallacy: Sweeping Generalization

If these con statements are true, they would seem to outweigh the pro arguments, because the Affordable Care Act will be a disaster for taxpayers.

Note: The symbolization simply displays the arguments clearly.

Sources:

1. "Health-care law is constitutional, a divided Supreme Court rules," by Dan Freedman and Richard S. Dunham, blog.chron.com/txpotomac
2. "Remarks by the President on Supreme Court Ruling on the Affordable Care Act," www.whitehouse.gov, June 28, 2012
3. "What the health care ruling means to you" – CNN.com, by Josh Levs

NOTE: SEE LOGIC HANDBOOK ON THIS WEBSITE FOR MORE ON FALLACIES AND LOGICAL ANALYSIS.