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FREE MEDICAL CLINIC OF NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY

“Providing the gift of health to those in need”

Supreme Court Upholds Affordable Care Act; an estimated 23 million individual’s uninsured in 2020

Winchester, VA (June 29, 2012) — The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The law was designed to extend coverage to 50 million Americans who don’t have insurance.

The Free Medical Clinic of Northern Shenandoah Valley Inc. (FMC) has been preparing for change in our country’s healthcare laws for whatever outcome would be announced by the Supreme Court ruling. It has been reported that while the new healthcare law will reduce the uninsured by 32 million, it will still leave an estimated 23 million individuals uninsured nationwide in 2020, and 100,000 in Virginia. Even with the Medicaid expansion, many of the currently low-income and uninsured under age 65 will not qualify for Medicaid coverage if income is over 133% FPL (federal poverty guidelines).

Free Medical Clinics across the commonwealth of Virginia were set up to provide high quality and high value care for individuals who are uninsured. Even with Thursday’s Supreme Court ruling, Free Medical Clinics will continue to be an important part of any healthcare system moving forward.

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Over the next 18 months, the FMCNSV Board of Directors and Clinic executive staff will participate in a strategic planning process to develop future organizational plans initiated by the Virginia Association of Free Clinics and in partnership with the 59 other Free Clinics throughout Virginia.

“We are looking forward to working with our community partners and various groups to ensure that those in need continue to have access to critical services throughout the changing healthcare environment”, Vicki McClelland, executive director of the Free Medical Clinic of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, Inc. said.

In 2011, the FMC had over 250 volunteers that provided more than 4,000 hours of service to the Clinic. Free clinics provide the most cost-efficient delivery of healthcare services and will continue to provide quality healthcare to the underserved in our community. Last year, the Clinic treated 1048 patients, provided 9366 patient visits, and screened 532 new patients for services.

The Free Medical Clinic of Northern Shenandoah Valley was founded in 1986 to provide medical care to low-income individuals who do not have access to health insurance. The Free Medical Clinic is a private, non-profit organization whose services are provided primarily by volunteers.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Vicki McClelland, please call Vicki at (540) 536-1681 or e-mail at vmcclelland@fmcwinchester.org