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## News Release

**Date: June 28, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NCMS Encourages Congress to Address Ongoing Healthcare Delivery Challenges**

(Raleigh) – It is apparent the U.S. Supreme Court has decided to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Now, the future of PPACA is thrust back into the political arena and will surely be debated in the new Congress. In that debate, the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) urges policy makers to address the ongoing challenges faced by physicians and their patients.

Foremost among the challenges now faced by Congress as it works to ensure access to medical care for all Americans, is to demonstrate that it can adequately support the programs it already has. Specifically, Medicare has become an unstable source of coverage for health care services, putting physicians and their elderly patients in jeopardy of losing access to care – often several times per budget cycle – over disputes about the fee schedule (Sustainable Growth Rate formula) that have languished without a solution for more than a decade.

Throughout the debate surrounding enactment of PPACA, the NCMS emphasized issues that must be addressed for reform to be successful. Specific issues such as the cost and financing of existing government-sponsored health coverage programs, widespread physician shortages, and substantial burdens related to running medical practices, continue to be areas of concern that have not been adequately addressed by policy makers.

Regardless of the Court's decision, significant health reform, driven by market forces, is already well underway in this country. The NCMS will continue to drive positive change in the health care marketplace, provide leadership within the physician community, and work with elected officials to ensure any proposed legislation is clinically relevant, practical in terms of implementation, and guided by improvements in patient care.

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Robert W. Monteiro, MD, President

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**About the North Carolina Medical Society**

*The North Carolina Medical Society is the largest professional member organization in North Carolina, representing approximately 12,500 physicians and physician assistants who practice in the state. Founded in 1849, the Society seeks to promote access to quality health care for all citizens in North Carolina and champions initiatives that seek to improve quality of care and promote patient safety.*

**About the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation**

*The North Carolina Medical Society Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the North Carolina Medical Society. It is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. The Foundation works to improve the sustainability of medical practices by providing grants to encourage health professionals to serve in areas of North Carolina that need them most, assisting medical practices with management and Health Information Technology challenges, and by educating physicians to become leaders in their communities through the NCMS Leadership College.*

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