STATEMENT BY ELIZABETH BENSON FORER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VENICE FAMILY CLINIC, REGARDING THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

VENICE, CA—Today Elizabeth Benson Forer, executive director of Venice Family Clinic, issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling 5-4 to uphold the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. By affirming landmark legislation to reform the nation’s health care system, the court has ensured expanded access to Medicaid and health insurance for 2.7 million uninsured people in Los Angeles County:

“By affirming the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Supreme Court has ensured that hard-working Californians from all walks of life will have access to health insurance and health care services. The impact on our patients is extraordinary: over half of the 25,000 patients we see each year at Venice Family Clinic will have access to Medicaid in 2014. For many, they will now have the chance to receive regular, covered primary care for the first time in their lives.

“With 7 million uninsured residents in California and 2.7 million people in Los Angeles County alone with no health insurance, the Court’s decision means California can move forward with fully implementing the Affordable Care Act and providing a health care system that truly works for all Californians. We thank President Obama for his leadership on this issue and applaud the Supreme Court for upholding the fact that health care is not a political or social issue—it’s a basic human right.”

Venice Family Clinic’s mission is to provide affordable quality health care to people in need. Established in 1970 by founder Phillip Rossman, MD, and co-founder Mayer B. Davidson, MD, the Clinic has grown from a small storefront operation into the largest free clinic in the country. Venice Family Clinic is the medical home for over 25,000 patients through nine sites in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Inglewood, and Culver City. www.venicefamilyclinic.org Find us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/venicefamilyclinic