What is the Texas v. United States case?
In 2018, a coalition of Republican state attorneys general and governors brought a lawsuit to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas (Texas v. United States) arguing that the elimination of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual mandate tax as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 rendered the mandate unconstitutional and that the entire ACA must fall along with it. In December 2018, the Texas district court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs that the ACA is invalid. This decision resulted in an appeal to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals; and in December 2019, the 5th circuit upheld the district court’s decision that the individual mandate is unconstitutional. However, the 5th circuit did not affirm the part of the district court’s ruling that struck down the rest of the ACA’s provisions on the grounds that they were not severable from the individual mandate. Instead of addressing this severability question, the appeals court remanded the case back to the district court.

Has the Supreme Court weighed in on this case?
Following the 5th circuit's December 2019 ruling to remand the case back to the district court, a coalition of Democratic state attorneys general and members of Congress asked the Supreme Court to intervene and take up an immediate review of the case by June 2020. The Supreme Court denied the motion to expedite the case this term but did agree to hear the case in the next term beginning in October. A decision would then be issued by July 2021.

How does this impact Trinity Health?
Importantly, there is no immediate impact for patients. The ACA is still the law of the land. Medicaid expansion and marketplace plans will continue to function as they do today. Trinity Health will continue to promote and participate in Medicaid expansion and health insurance marketplace plans. At the same time, Trinity Health will continue to advocate for expanding and securing health insurance coverage for all. Should the Supreme Court ultimately strike down the ACA, Trinity Health will adjust financial modeling to reflect how potentially 20 million newly uninsured individuals impacts our business. More importantly, we will vigorously renew advocacy efforts to address this coverage gap.

If asked, please issue the following Trinity Health statement:
Trinity Health believes access to affordable, quality care is a basic human right and that the coverage provisions created in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) go a long way toward expanding access. Trinity Health has advocated for, promoted and participated in Medicaid expansion and health insurance marketplace plans and sees, first-hand, how access to coverage is improving health outcomes. Similarly, Trinity Health believes the ACA provisions that protect those with pre-existing conditions, allow young adults to stay on their parents' health plans until age 26, and promote high-value care models are critical to advancing population health. Should a decision by the Supreme Court result in the elimination of these important provisions, Trinity Health will vigorously renew its advocacy efforts.