

Legislators were right to join lawsuit

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We have stated previously that we believe Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway was wrong in not joining 27 other states in a lawsuit challenging Obamacare's constitutionality.

It is gratifying that many in the Kentucky House of Representatives and the state Senate have joined an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit.

Nearly all of Kentucky's state-level Republican lawmakers - about 60 members, including independent state Sen. Bob Leeper of Paducah - have signed the friend-of-the-court brief that an attorney from the CATO Institute filed Monday with the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court said it will begin hearing oral arguments in March on the constitutionality of the four provisions, including one that requires people to buy health insurance starting in 2014 or pay a penalty. That individual mandate is the one state lawmakers are weighing in on.

The lawmakers contend that Congress violated the Constitution's commerce clause by compelling people to buy insurance. Congress, they say, has no right to force people to engage in commerce. We wholeheartedly agree with this argument and are hopeful that the high court agrees as well.

Sadly, not one Democrat from the House or Senate signed onto the brief. This is troubling because if our government can compel people to buy a health insurance product against their will, what aspect of our lives might they not have jurisdiction?

Apparently, these Democratic legislators felt otherwise, which is unfortunate. We understand and respect party loyalty up to a point, but red flags should start flying when that loyalty seems to have a higher priority than a blatant encroachment on our individual freedom.

These legislators are sending a message to their constituents that they are not willing to stand up against government overreach.

Kentuckians who cherish liberty should be proud of those legislators who have taken action after our attorney general failed to do so.