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**Amida Care Opposes President Trump’s Discriminatory Ban on Military Service for Transgender People**

Washington, D.C. (July 27, 2017)—Amida Care strongly rejects President Trump’s ban preventing transgender Americans from serving in the military. Currently, 15,000 transgender men and women serve our country. [One in five](#) transgender Americans having served at some point in their life – double the percentage of the general U.S. population who has served in the military.

“President Trump’s ban is an insult to the transgender Americans who have put their lives on the line to serve in our military,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “Anyone willing to put their country before themselves should be regarded with the utmost respect. This ban is a disgrace. Discrimination of any kind has no place in our military and in America.”

In the series of tweets announcing the ban, President Trump listed medical costs as one of the reasons behind his decision. However, a [2016 RAND study](#) found that the medical costs of transgender service members represented a very small portion of the military’s health care expenses. According to the study, care for transgender service members would represent between 0.005 to 0.017 percent of overall Department of Defense health care expenditures.

Amida Care, the largest Medicaid Special Needs health Plan (SNP) in New York, has been a local pioneer for transgender health, with 7% of its members identifying as transgender.

“Banning transgender people from military service for any reason is shameful, and using medical costs is a sorry excuse,” Wirth added. “We believe health care is a right, not a privilege. Everyone in this country – from civilians to the men and women who serve in our military – deserves access to high-quality care. This is clearly not about medical costs, it’s about bigotry.”

Despite promises on the campaign trail that he would be a friend to the LGBTQ community, the Trump administration continues to blatantly target and undermine this community, including rolling back Title IX guidance protecting transgender students; nominating anti-LGBTQ extremists to all levels of government, including the Supreme Court; and removing LGBTQ data collection from federal surveys.

Amida Care remains firmly committed to supporting the LGBTQ community in leading healthy, authentic lives and advocating for LGBTQ social justice.