



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amida Care Condemns New Law in Arkansas Banning Physicians from Providing Gender-Affirming Care to People of Trans Experience Under the Age of 18

(New York, NY) - Doug Wirth, President and CEO of [Amida Care](http://www.amidacareny.org), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement in response to the Arkansas General Assembly overriding a gubernatorial veto to pass legislation that would prohibit physicians from providing gender-affirming health care to people of trans experience under the age of 18. Amida Care is dedicated to breaking down health disparities and advocating for health equity for underserved communities.

“Denying a person medically necessary, gender-affirming care is unconscionable. This bigoted law passed by the Arkansas General Assembly will have devastating consequences for the lives of young people of trans experience throughout the state. Transgender youth are already more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts. It is heartbreaking and alarming to see laws pass that codify discrimination and exacerbate health disparities. Transgender Americans face discrimination at nearly every turn, as Amida Care detailed in a [recent report](#) on the challenges the transgender community faces in accessing health care. Discrimination creates barriers to stable housing, employment, and other basic needs; these barriers have a terrible impact on health.”

“As our country deals with unprecedented health and economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the time to expand access to health care, not restrict access and create steeper barriers to care for an already underserved group. Rather than pass laws that target the transgender community, we need to increase access to gender-affirming care so people of trans experience can live their lives authentically and be healthy.”

About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or who are homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.