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## **Amida Care Applauds President Biden for Reversing Ban on Transgender Americans from Serving in the Military and for Executive Order Protecting LGBTQ Americans from Discrimination**

(New York, NY) - Doug Wirth, President & CEO of [Amida Care](https://www.amidacareny.org), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement applauding President Joe Biden for overturning the ban on transgender Americans serving in the military and for signing an [executive order](#) protecting LGBTQ Americans from discrimination in health care settings, schools, the workplace and more:

“In America, there should be no place for denying someone health care, employment, housing, educational opportunities, or the chance to serve in the armed forces because of who they are. Discriminating against an individual based on their sexual orientation or gender identity is unconscionable and harms the health and safety of our nation.

Discrimination has devastating consequences, leading to grave health disparities faced by people of transgender experience in particular. As Amida Care detailed in a recent [report](#), among transgender Americans living with HIV, 19% reported being refused treatment due to their gender identity, and 28% report they have been harassed in a doctor's office. We urge Congress to go further to protect all LGBTQ Americans by passing the Equality Act, and we call on Senator Chuck Schumer from New York to lead this action by bringing the Equality Act to the Senate floor for a vote within the first 100 days of the new Congress. We must continue to fight for better access to culturally-competent, quality gender-affirming health care.

These actions demonstrate that the Biden Administration understands that for too long, LGBTQ Americans have faced discrimination at nearly every turn, creating barriers to living their authentic lives. We are hopeful that President Biden will continue to display a commitment to diversity and inclusion, and promote equity and justice for all Americans.”

### **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](https://www.amidacareny.org).