



**Contact:**

Shakira Croce, Communications Manager  
646-757-7052; [scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org)

## **Amida Care Condemns the Trump Administration’s Exclusionary CDC Word Ban**

New York, NY – December 20, 2017 – Amida Care is appalled by the Trump Administration’s ban on using certain words in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) budget documents for Congress. Banning the words “science-based,” “evidence-based,” “transgender,” “diversity,” “entitlement,” “vulnerable,” and “fetus” will not make our country healthier; instead, it will foster the spread of misinformation and exclude communities that need recognition and attention to overcome the social, economic, and health disparities they face.

“The Trump administration’s ban on words is more than a bad policy that hinders the CDC from doing its job; it erases entire communities of Americans, pushing a partisan agenda that turns back the clock to a time when diverse racial, ethnic, LGBTQ, and other populations were treated as if they were invisible in mainstream society,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “Transgender individuals and other marginalized communities face a higher risk for violence, murder, suicide, and overwhelming barriers to accessing quality, culturally competent health care, including stigma, discrimination, unemployment, and a lack of knowledge about the community’s health needs. Censoring language in the CDC’s budget documents fuels these already alarming disparities.”

The ban creates a high risk of disseminating misinformation and creating confusion. Misleading information coming from the government’s leading health authority will perpetuate stigma and discrimination. According to the Human Rights Campaign, [28 percent](#) of transgender individuals surveyed have been harassed in a doctor’s office. Lambda Legal found that nearly [27 percent](#) of transgender and gender-nonconforming respondents have been denied needed health care outright. A symptom of these disparities, the HIV epidemic disproportionately affects the transgender community— transgender women are [49 times](#) more likely to be living with HIV than the general population.

History has shown the devastating results of silence around health issues. When the first cases of what is now known as HIV/AIDS were detected in America in the 1980s, the Reagan administration failed to act, not even publicly saying the word “AIDS” [until 1985](#). Years of silence and inaction led to an epidemic that has cost millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of American lives – an epidemic that we are still fighting today.

Amida Care strongly urges action – instead of silence – from elected officials around this censorship of the CDC or any other public agency. It is an attack on entire populations of Americans who the CDC works to protect and on the freedom of CDC scientists to do their jobs. The CDC must be allowed to speak plainly and truthfully about its work. The health of every American depends on it.

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