



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Assistant Director of Communications

scroce@amidacareny.org, (646) 757-7052

Amida Care Applauds Court Ruling Blocking Trump Administration's Attempt to Roll Back Health Care Protections for People of Transgender Experience

(New York, NY—August 19, 2020) - U.S. District Court Judge Frederic Block has issued a preliminary injunction barring the Trump administration's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from enforcing a new regulation that would roll back health care protections for people of transgender experience. In response, Doug Wirth, President & CEO of [Amida Care](#), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement:

"Denying a person health care based on their sexual orientation or gender identity is unconscionable. This ruling, halting HHS's hateful and discriminatory attempt to overturn protections for transgender people in the Affordable Care Act, is not only a victory for the LGBTQ community, but for everyone who believes that health care is a right, not a privilege.

Transgender individuals already face discrimination at nearly every turn, as Amida Care detailed in a recent [report](#). 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 marginalized group.

Additionally, this HHS rule undermines the Trump administration's own stated mission to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. 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. Access to highly-effective HIV prevention tools like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is key to preventing HIV transmission. For those living with HIV, access to treatment allows them to become virally suppressed so they can live longer, healthier lives and are unable to transmit the virus to others. It also saves taxpayer dollars. For every 2,000 new infections we prevent, we save close to \$1 billion in future medical costs.

Amida Care has more than 500 transgender members who are HIV negative, and as many as 25% are accessing PrEP. We have also had tremendous success helping our members of transgender experience who are living with HIV become virally suppressed or undetectable. Of our 1,200 transgender members, more than 60% are living with HIV, and 80% of them are undetectable. If we want to end the epidemic, we must make sure that individuals placed at elevated risk for HIV -- including people of transgender experience -- have access to the health care they need.

We welcome this ruling, and commit to continuing to fight back against hateful discrimination and attacks on health care so that everyone, particularly the LGBTQ community, has access to culturally-competent, quality health care."

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.