



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2021

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## **Amida Care Celebrates Biden-Harris Decision to Restore Protections for Transgender People in Health Care Settings**

(New York, NY—May 11, 2021) On May 10, the Biden-Harris Administration announced it would reverse a Trump-era policy that allowed medical providers to discriminate against transgender people in health care settings. Amida Care, New York’s largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan designed for people affected by HIV, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth in response to the news:

“Amida Care applauds the Biden-Harris administration for extending protections to people of transgender experience so they can live healthy, authentic lives. After four long years of hateful and discriminatory policies under the previous administration that targeted the transgender community, today’s announcement is an important step toward advancing equity in our nation’s health care system. In America, health care has been treated as a privilege - rather than the right that it truly is - for far too long. There is no excuse for health care professionals to refuse medically necessary care to people because of who they are.”

“Unfortunately, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals are confronted with bias at almost every turn, as Amida Care detailed in a [recent report](#). They face discrimination from family members, at work, in school, in the justice system, and in access to housing and health care. These barriers have resulted in higher levels of health care avoidance and devastating health outcomes.”

“According to recent surveys, 1 in 4 transgender respondents reported having to teach health care professionals about transgender care. 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. Nearly a quarter of respondents have avoided seeing a doctor out of fear that they would be mistreated. Discrimination has dire consequences, as transgender people face higher rates of HIV and are less likely to be virally suppressed compared to other populations. We can’t end the HIV/AIDS epidemic without gender-affirming health care.”

“Amida Care is proud to advocate for access to quality, gender-affirming care and services across our country, and build upon the successes we’ve led here in New York.”

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