



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds Federal Judge's Blocking of Discriminatory HHS Rule

New York, NY (November 6, 2019) –Today, a federal judge in New York struck down the Trump administration's "conscience rule," which would have allowed health care workers and health plans to discriminate against and refuse health services and care to individuals based on religious or moral objections. In response, Doug Wirth, president and CEO of [Amida Care](#), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan, released the following statement:

"The Trump Administration's attempt to allow discrimination in the health care sector would have had devastating consequences for millions of Americans, particularly members of the LGBTQ community and women. The 'conscience rule' is nothing more than a license to withhold care based on homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and other forms of bias and discrimination. Today's ruling is a victory for human rights, and we must do more to ensure that all Americans have equal access to quality health care that is a basic human right, not a privilege."

"Despite the Trump administration's stated goal of ending the national HIV epidemic by 2030, the administration continues to take actions like this one that would deny care to people in communities that are heavily affected by HIV. A report released by Amida Care, [Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care](#), found that members of the LGBTQ community already face significant barriers to care. According to recent surveys, nearly one third of transgender respondents report having been harassed in a doctor's office, and nearly 25% avoided seeing a doctor out of fear that they would be mistreated. "

"When a person chooses a career in health care, they make a commitment to care for all those who need it. There is no excuse for health care professionals to refuse medically necessary care to people because of who they are. When you give a health care professional license to discriminate, you leave everyone at risk of being discriminated against."

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.

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