



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amida Care Applauds Gov. Cuomo for Pledging to Protect Transgender New Yorkers

On Friday, Governor Cuomo condemned the Trump administration's plan to roll back protections for transgender Americans

Amida Care, a staunch advocate for transgender health, recently released [a report on transgender health](#)

New York, NY (April 29, 2019) - Amida Care, a community health plan with a long history of advocating for transgender health, applauds Governor Cuomo for reaffirming his commitment to transgender health as the Trump administration considers rolling back protections for transgender individuals.

"Health care is a right, not a privilege, and people of transgender experience need and deserve access to comprehensive, culturally competent, gender-affirming health care," said **Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care**. "Rolling back non-discrimination protections for transgender Americans in health care settings will have devastating consequences for a community that already suffers from poor health outcomes due to extreme health and social disparities and a lack of access to reliable care."

Amida Care recently released a report on transgender health care titled "[Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care](#)." The report details how transgender Americans face systemic discrimination at nearly every turn: from family members, at school and work, in the justice system, and in access to housing, and how discrimination in health care settings has left them without reliable access to competent health care. For instance:

- In a recent survey, **1 in 4 transgender respondents reported having to teach health care professionals**, including their medical providers, 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**;
- There are **36 U.S. states** where insurance companies can exclude coverage of gender-affirming services.

"From signing GENDA--legislation that adds gender identity and expression as a protected class in the state's human rights and hate crimes laws--to spearheading the Blueprint to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New York State by 2020, Governor Cuomo has been a staunch advocate for protecting and expanding access to health care for all. We applaud the Governor for his steadfast support of the transgender community, and we stand with him and all those who are fighting to protect the civil rights of transgender Americans," Wirth added.

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 chronic 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.