COMMUNITY ACCESS NATIONAL NETWORK

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National ADAP Working Group (NAWG)

Community Access National Network Celebrates Federal Court Win Protecting Transgender Rights in Health Care

WASHINGTON, DC (November 19, 2026) – Jen Laws, **President & CEO of Community Access National Network** (CANN) released the following statement in response to today's ruling in favor of the American Academy of HIV Medicine's lawsuit against funding restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Trump Administration's restrictions – now ruled unlawful – prohibited the use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds for gender-affirming medical care for transgender people living with HIV.

"Everyone deserves access to health care free from discrimination and the federal government must ensure equal protection and free speech as constitutionally obliged. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS program is the largest safety-net program for people living with HIV, therefore program administration is dutifully bound to ensuring low-income, uninsured, underinsured and underserved people living with HIV – especially marginalized groups disproportionately affected by the epidemic – can access medical care, prescriptions and support.

"According to the ruling, transgender patients have been disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic. One cited example estimates that transgender women have an HIV prevalence of 19.9% – sixty-six times higher than that of the general population. It's seven times higher for transgender men.

"Discriminatory practices have no place in health care, especially not within the Ryan White program. Cisgender people also need and receive gender-affirming care – such as hormone therapy for menopause, hair restoration, and reconstructive surgery. All patients require integrated care that addresses their HIV treatment concurrently with other health care needs.

"We celebrate this momentous win, as the court permanently barred enforcement of the Administration's discriminatory conditions. Moreover, we vehemently agree with Judge Young's acknowledgment that the funding restrictions were 'arbitrary and capricious.'

"Every health care worker swears by 'Do No Harm' to protect vulnerable patients and preserve trust. We urge the Administration to mind this adage in its own enforcement of health care policies."

For general information and media inquiries, please contact press@tiicann.org.

About Community Access National Network: *The mission of the Community Access National Network (CANN) is to define, promote, and improve access to healthcare services and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Viral Hepatitis through advocacy, education, and networking. These services must be affordable to the people who need them regardless of insurance status, income, or geographic location.*