



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 11, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Elisabeth R. Benjamin, Community Service Society, (917) 364-3332

**New York State issues guidance to protect transgender individuals from insurance discrimination.**

(New York, NY) – Health Care For All New York, a coalition of more than 160 consumer advocacy organizations, lauds Governor Cuomo, New York State’s Department of Financial Services, and Superintendent Lawskey for moving to protect transgender New Yorkers from insurance discrimination. Today, DFS released guidance to all commercial insurance companies barring denials of medically necessary treatment for gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is a condition when a person’s identity at birth is different than the one with which they identify.

Ending transgender discrimination in health care has been a key policy priority for Health Care for All New York and its LGBT Task Force. HCFANY also mobilizes efforts to conduct outreach and enroll LGBT New Yorkers in health insurance.

“We are proud that our State stands up for the rights of transgender New Yorkers by guaranteeing them equal access to health care coverage,” said Elisabeth Benjamin, Vice President of Health Initiatives at Community Service Society of New York and co-founder of Health Care For All New York. “New York State’s new insurer guidance brings us one step closer to ending discrimination based on a person’s gender identity.”

HCFANY looks forward to working closely with the Cuomo Administration to continue ensuring that all New Yorkers have equal access to the quality, affordable health insurance and care they deserve.

###