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Statement on LGBTQ Employment Rights and Rollback of Transgender Health Care Protections

Empire Justice Center applauds the Supreme Court decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County Ga.*, holding that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer employees cannot be fired on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In a 6-3 decision, the ruling means LGBTQ workers now have protection and recourse for employment discrimination nationwide.

This landmark decision today comes three days after the Federal Department of Health and Human Services promulgated a new rule that removed health care protections for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals under the Affordable Care Act. Empire Justice Center strongly opposes this new rule, which was maliciously promulgated on June 12, 2020, on the fourth anniversary of the Pulse massacre, and in the middle of Pride month. We are heartened by the Supreme Court decision today which clearly delineates that protections on the basis of sex include protections for LGBTQ people, and now should serve as the guiding authority that will render the June 12th rule invalid.

Empire Justice Center stands firm in our knowledge that transgender women are women, and transgender men are men. Gender non-conforming and non-binary people have real and valid identities. Black trans lives matter. Transgender and gender non-conforming lives are valuable and worthy of respect. Transgender and gender non-conforming patients and bodies deserve the same dignity and care from health providers as other patients receive.

To find out more about Empire Justice Center, visit our website, www.empirejustice.org.

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Empire Justice Center is a statewide, multi-issue, multi-strategy, public interest law firm focused on changing the “systems” within which poor and low-income families live. Empire Justice protects and strengthens the legal rights of people in New York State who are poor, disabled or disenfranchised through: systems change advocacy, training and support to other advocates and organizations, and high quality direct civil legal representation. Empire Justice has offices in Albany, Rochester, Yonkers, White Plains and Central Islip on Long Island.