



**For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Communications Manager  
scroce@amidacareny.org, (646) 757-7052

**Amida Care Applauds Governor Cuomo's Expanded Health Care Protections for New Yorkers of Trans Experience**

New York, NY (June 26, 2018) - Doug Wirth, president and CEO of [Amida Care](http://www.amidacareny.org), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement applauding Governor Cuomo's announcement of actions to protect access to health care for New Yorkers of transgender experience:

"We applaud Governor Cuomo's steps to safeguard basic rights for New Yorkers of transgender experience, to protect them from discrimination by health care providers and insurers in the face of anticipated federal rollbacks. New York has always been a beacon for the LGBTQ community and a place of refuge for people of all backgrounds, faiths, identities, and experiences. Governor Cuomo's steadfast commitment to that vision is clear," said Wirth.

New York has approximately 90,300 transgender individuals who, if President Trump's proposed regulation rollback of a key provision of the Affordable Care Act was to be implemented, would be subject to unfair discrimination in a health care setting. To counter this action, Governor Cuomo directed the New York State Department of Health to issue regulations prohibiting health care providers from discriminating against transgender patients and directed the New York State Department of Financial Services to issue regulations expanding the scope of anti-discrimination protections for transgender individuals when accessing health insurance.

Discrimination against trans individuals in health care is well-documented. According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 33% of transgender Americans reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender in a medical setting, such as verbal harassment, refusal of treatment, or having to teach a provider about transgender people to receive appropriate care, while 23% did not see a doctor at all when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated.

"Amida Care has a long history of helping the transgender community access high-quality, culturally competent, gender-affirming health care. We are grateful to have the support of Governor Cuomo and his administration as Amida Care and our community partners continue to advocate for access to the health services people need to be healthy and live their authentic lives," 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 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](http://www.amidacareny.org).