



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Celebrates Affordable Care Act's 10th Anniversary

The Affordable Care Act Is Vital to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

New York, NY (March 23, 2020) – Doug Wirth, president and CEO of [Amida Care](http://AmidaCare.com), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan, released the following statement recognizing the 10th anniversary of the passing of the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

“10 years ago today, the Affordable Care Act became the law of the land, providing health coverage to 21 million Americans. The ACA is particularly crucial during a health crisis like the current COVID-19 pandemic to ensure access to care. This crisis reaffirms how critical it is to have a reliable, effective, and comprehensive health system that serves all Americans. We owe deep gratitude to President Obama and all the advocates who fought hard to pass this legislation.”

“Not only did this landmark legislation allow millions of Americans to access quality, affordable health insurance, it has also been crucial in the fight to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Prior to the passing of the ACA, Americans living with HIV struggled to get insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions, cost barriers, and Medicaid eligibility limitations. These barriers were largely removed by the ACA, and as a result, Medicaid coverage of people with HIV increased significantly nationwide, driven by states that embraced Medicaid expansion. Today, 40 percent of Americans living with HIV are covered by Medicaid.”

“This increased access to treatment allows individuals with HIV to become virally suppressed so they can live longer, healthier lives and are unable to transmit the virus to others. It also saves taxpayer dollars. For every 2,700 new infections we prevent, we save close to \$1 billion in future medical costs. Medicaid is key to much of the progress we've made over the last decade in the fight against HIV and should be the centerpiece of any national strategy to end the HIV epidemic.”

“And while Medicaid expansion has been invaluable to individuals with HIV, it has also been crucial in so many other areas: fighting the opioid epidemic, ensuring our veterans receive adequate care, and guaranteeing quality, accessible health care for millions of workers. Indeed, one in two Americans will need Medicaid at some point in their lifetimes. Without insurance,

people have nowhere to go for preventative care and screenings that could detect illnesses before they become chronic or deadly.”

“While the Trump administration continues its relentless assault on the ACA, including repeated attempts to repeal it through legislation and through regulatory changes that undermine the intent of the law, we renew our commitment to fight for Americans’ right to health care.”

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 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.

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