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Amida Care Applauds Mayor de Blasio, New York City Council, and Speaker Corey Johnson for Helping to Make Birth Certificates Accurately Reflect Gender Identity

New law will allow individuals to receive a new birth certificate that matches their gender identity without requiring a medical attestation

New York, NY (October 9, 2018) – Thanks to legislation passed by the New York City Council and signed into law by Mayor de Blasio today, New York City will allow individuals to change the gender on their birth certificate to one that affirms their gender identity, including the option to select “X” to designate their gender as non-binary, intersex, or another form of gender identity. Amida Care, New York’s largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan and advocate for the health care rights of individuals of transgender and gender non-conforming experience, applauds Mayor Bill de Blasio, Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Members Karen Koslowitz, Ben Kallos, Carlina Rivera, Brad Lander, Daniel Dromm, Helen Rosenthal, and Costa Constantinides, who sponsored the legislation, as well as the City Council’s LGBT Caucus and the Board of Health for their leadership on this issue.

“New York City is taking historic steps that will help individuals of transgender experience and gender non-conforming individuals not only live with dignity but also access the care and services they need to live happy, healthy, productive, and authentic lives,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care.

New Yorkers seeking a new birth certificate that affirms their gender identity were previously required to get an attestation from a medical professional. Under the new law, New Yorkers will be able to self-attest, removing a significant barrier for many. 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.

“Individuals of transgender and gender non-conforming experience continue to face discrimination in health care settings,” Wirth added. “While Amida Care and others continue to advocate for access to quality, culturally competent, gender-affirming health care, allowing transgender and non-binary individuals to self-attest is one more step toward breaking down barriers and achieving equity for people who have been marginalized.”

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.