



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds Biden-Harris Administration for Plans to Rescind Trump-era HHS Rule That Allowed for Discrimination in Health Care

New York, N.Y. (April 21, 2022) – Amida Care, New York’s largest Medicaid managed care Special Needs Plan serving people impacted by HIV has released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth in response to news that the Biden-Harris Administration is planning to repeal a Trump-era Health and Human Services rule that allowed medical workers to refuse to provide services that conflict with their religious or moral beliefs:

“We applaud the Biden-Harris Administration for planning to rescind the bigoted ‘conscience rule,’ which if implemented would have given health care workers a license to discriminate against the LGBTQ community and withhold care based on homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of bias and discrimination. In America, health care has been treated as a privilege - rather than the right that it truly is - for far too long. There is no excuse for health care professionals to refuse medically necessary care to people because of who they are.”

“Everyone should be treated with dignity, care and respect when they walk into a doctor’s office, hospital or medical facility. Unfortunately, LGBTQ individuals routinely face discrimination in medical settings. According to recent surveys, among transgender Americans living with HIV, 19% reported being refused treatment due to their gender identity, and 28% report they have been harassed in a doctor's office. This has led to startling health disparities, including being disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”

“At a time when state legislatures throughout the country are passing laws that strip rights away from the LGBTQ community, we thank the Biden-Harris Administration for taking this important step toward advancing equity in our nation’s health care system. Amida Care is proud to continue to advocate for better access to culturally-competent, gender-affirming, quality health care across our country, and build upon the successes we’ve led here in New York.”

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 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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