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Amida Care Condemns Trump Administration's Elimination of Deferred Action Childhood Arrival (DACA) Program

New York, NY – September 7, 2017 – Amida Care vehemently opposes President Trump's decision to rescind the Deferred Action Childhood Arrival (DACA) program, which grants 800,000 young Americans the right to work in the country they've called home for the majority of their lives. Ending DACA is a cruel attack on hard-working Americans and serves no purpose other than to discriminate against individuals based on their place of birth.

"These young people are at the heart of what makes America great. DACA recipients are deeply rooted in our communities; they are our friends, neighbors, teachers, police officers, doctors, and more," said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. "It is appalling that fundamental rights may be ripped away from thousands of young people because of a racist, xenophobic, and bigoted decision. We call on Congress to step up and fight for the young Americans whose livelihoods will be put in jeopardy if DACA is eliminated."

"Our country was founded by immigrants seeking a better life for themselves and their families. DACA recipients embody core American values and have made a positive impact on our society. By ending DACA, President Trump is sending the message that their contributions are meaningless. We must stand up for America's future and protect the rights of these hard-working dreamers."

Beyond granting the right to work, DACA has also connected thousands of young people to health care, both through their employers and via Medicaid. New York alone is home to 42,000 DACA recipients, the vast majority of whom will lose their employer-sponsored health insurance if they are no longer permitted to work. Up to 10,000 of New York's DACA recipients are covered by Medicaid, and they risk losing critical health care coverage.

"Before DACA, these young people may not have felt comfortable visiting a doctor because of their immigration status. Now they have the freedom to seek out preventive health services and treatment for chronic illnesses just like any other American, with the confidence that they are covered and are legally living in the country. This creates a healthier future for us all," added Wirth. "We urge New York to continue providing health coverage to DACA recipients, including those who will lose their insurance from an employer."

The economic implications of ending DACA are staggering – it is [estimated](#) that the loss of all DACA workers would cost our economy \$400 billion. In addition, without health insurance, DACA recipients have no choice but to visit the emergency room more frequently to address their health needs, thus racking up higher medical bills and getting pushed into poverty. Those higher costs are ultimately passed on to the government, insurers, and taxpayers.

Amida Care is resolute in our commitment to securing justice for young immigrants in New York and across the country.