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**Amida Care Commends New York State for Upholding
Gender Non-Conforming New Yorkers' Right to Health Care**

***In historic decision, New York State Department of Health rules that
non-binary New Yorkers have the right to coverage under Medicaid***

New York, NY (May 18, 2018) – In a historic, precedent-setting ruling on May 11, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) upheld the right of gender non-conforming New Yorkers to access medically necessary, gender-affirming health care. The ruling overturned an insurance company's decision to deny coverage to treat gender dysphoria in a Medicaid recipient who identifies as non-binary. Amida Care, the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan in New York State and an advocate for the health care rights of LGBTQ and gender non-conforming individuals, applauds the decision. Amida Care has a long history of serving the transgender and gender non-conforming communities; 7% of Amida Care's members identify as people of transgender experience.

"This historic decision ensures that gender non-conforming New Yorkers will have access to the medically necessary gender-affirming health care they need," said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. "This ruling sends a powerful message that discrimination based on gender identity will not be tolerated, especially in health care settings."

Lawyers from The Legal Aid Society, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, representing a gender non-conforming person identified as "AV," had pushed for a new hearing from the NYS Department of Health (DOH) after a judge upheld a decision by AV's insurance plan to deny a reduction mammoplasty in 2017. OTDA's Nigel Marks, who was designated by DOH to oversee the case, reversed the denial and ordered AV's insurance plan to approve the request for the procedure.

"We at Amida Care are thankful to The Legal Aid Society, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project for their tireless efforts to protect non-binary New Yorkers from discrimination and to get this misguided decision overturned," Wirth added. "We're proud that New York continues to be a standard-setter for health equity that meets the needs of our richly diverse populations."

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.