



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amida Care Applauds the Permanent Blocking of Trump-Era Public Charge Rule

(New York, NY, March 11, 2021) - Doug Wirth, President and CEO of [Amida Care](https://www.amidacareny.org), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), which is dedicated to breaking down health disparities and advocating for health equity for underserved communities, issued the following statement in response to news that the Department of Justice has stopped enforcing the Trump-era "public charge" regulations. The regulations penalized immigrants who use public benefits, like food stamps and Medicaid, by denying them green cards and visas.

"Amida Care is thankful that the 'public charge' rule will no longer be implemented. This regulation targeted our foreign-born neighbors and put our collective public health at risk, undermining our ability to tackle public health crises, like Covid-19 and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"By making it harder for people in marginalized communities to access care, we risk turning the clock back on the progress we've made in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As soon as this bigoted and misguided regulation was announced, we saw immigrants become less willing to seek out health care, including HIV testing, treatment, and prevention. Rather than denying care to those who need it, we should be investing in greater outreach and education services in communities hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which includes immigrant communities.

"We must continue to work to ensure that all communities are connected to the services they need, like health care, housing, and food assistance, to live productive lives and contribute to our country. Today's news is a step in the right direction, and we support efforts by the Biden-Harris administration to make America healthier and more equitable."

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.