



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amida Care Responds to President Trump's Pledge to End HIV Transmissions by 2030

President Trump's Home State of New York Can Provide a National Model to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

New York, NY (February 7, 2019) – In his State of the Union address this week, President Trump pledged to end new HIV transmissions in the United States by 2030. Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, New York's largest nonprofit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan specifically designed for individuals living with or at higher risk for HIV/AIDS, and an advocate for LGBTQ health, issued the following statement in response:

“If he wants to get serious about ending the epidemic nationwide, President Trump should look no further for inspiration than his home state of New York, the national leader in this fight. Thanks to Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York has a plan with an effective strategy to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the state by 2020. Once the epicenter of the AIDS crisis, New York is making strides to help people living with HIV get treated to achieve viral suppression, making them unable to transmit HIV. The state has also worked to aggressively expand access to HIV testing and to ensure access to prevention methods like pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, keeping thousands of additional New Yorkers negative each year.

And it's working – new HIV diagnoses are down 39 percent since 2007, with a record low of 2,157 new cases in New York City in 2017.

While we are encouraged by the President's pledge to end the epidemic across the country in just 10 years, actions speak far louder than words, and the Trump administration has taken step after step to actively undermine and turn back the clock on this fight. He fired the entire Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, and left it empty for a year. He wants to cut funding to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief. From proposing deep cuts to Medicare Part D, which would remove key protections connecting people living with HIV to treatment; to repeated attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and slash Medicaid; to proposing vicious cuts to programs that fight poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, and housing instability, the Trump administration has repeatedly acted against the best interests of those living with HIV.

The Trump administration has also allowed states to implement work requirements for Medicaid that have led to thousands of vulnerable Americans losing their health coverage. Meanwhile, Governor Cuomo ensured that New Yorkers living with HIV can be empowered to pursue

voluntary living-wage employment without jeopardizing access to the care they need to get and stay well. Engaging people with lived experience of HIV must be part of any plan to end HIV/AIDS.

New York's Blueprint to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, helping to connect people living with and at higher risk for HIV to life-saving health care, can and should be a model for the nation. If the President is serious about his commitment to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, he must begin to implement policies like those in New York that address health disparities and promote access to health care. We need federal policies that uphold the rights of all Americans, including LGBTQ people, immigrants, and people of color, and we need funding and resources for HIV prevention and care. There is no time to wait.”

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.