



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds Outcomes That Uphold Access to Health Care in 2018 Midterm Elections

New York, NY (November 7, 2018) – Doug Wirth, President and CEO of [Amida Care](#), New York’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement regarding the outcomes of the 2018 midterm elections:

“For months leading up to the midterm elections, voters told pollsters that health care was their number one priority for this election. The results of the midterms prove that to be true. Across the board, politicians with a track record of supporting health care access and equity for marginalized populations were elevated to key positions of power.

In states like Idaho, Nebraska, and Utah where Medicaid was on the ballot, voters decidedly voted to support expansion. In states like Kansas, Wisconsin, and Maine where Medicaid was not on the ballot but candidates positioned themselves as champions for health care, voters resoundingly elected those who ran on platforms of inclusivity and preserving the Affordable Care Act. Voters recognize that Medicaid belongs to everyone and benefits everyone. [One in five](#) Americans are covered by Medicaid. Nearly two-thirds of older and disabled Americans rely on Medicaid, and 1 in 10 veterans get their health care through Medicaid. Medicaid is US.

Beyond health care, a number of historic firsts brought this country closer to having elected officials who truly represent the communities they serve. Coloradans elected the first openly gay man as governor. Here in New York, voters elected Letitia James, the first black woman in statewide office and also the first woman Attorney General.

We’re encouraged that Governor Andrew Cuomo—a tried and true advocate for health care and New York’s effort to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by the year 2020—was elected to his third term. We also congratulate Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who have worked to promote access to health care. We look forward to working with new members of New York’s Congressional delegation, including Staten Island Congressman-elect and veteran Max Rose, to protect Medicaid and serve the over 2,400 people living with HIV on Staten Island.

As we look toward the upcoming legislative session here in New York, it is imperative that we remain steadfast in our commitment to equity in health care and continue to push for common sense policies that protect and honor the dignity of all New Yorkers. Passing the Gender Expressing Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) would prohibit discrimination based on gender

identity or expression and includes offenses regarding gender identity or expression under the hate crimes statute.

For those of us who have made access to culturally competent health care and protections for all our life's work, it is a bright day. There is still much work to be done. But here in New York and across the country, marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, people of color, and women, can breathe just a little bit easier.”

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.

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