



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds the Biden Administration’s Decision to Rescind Trump Era Medicaid Work Requirements

New York, NY (February 17, 2020) -- Over the weekend, the Biden administration began the process of undoing the previous administration’s harmful Medicaid work requirement policy, which resulted in tens of thousands losing their health care coverage over the last few years. Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, New York’s largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers living with complex conditions like HIV, issued the following statement applauding President Biden’s decision:

“Amida Care welcomes the news that the Biden Administration is doing its part to roll back the harmful Medicaid work requirements enacted by the previous administration. Making Medicaid eligibility contingent on employment flies in the face of common sense and violates Medicaid’s core mission to provide safety net health care.”

“Work requirements were never about getting people back to work, despite what the previous administration said. When the policy was implemented, many of those on Medicaid were already working: in 2016, 60% of adults aged 19-64 on Medicaid who were not on SSI were already working but earned low wages or worked for small businesses that don’t provide insurance. Work requirements were about cutting costs and cutting Medicaid rolls—an approach that is both short-sighted, cruel, and disastrous for America’s health.”

“Medicaid is essential to Americans’ access to health care during times of crisis and has provided a vital safety net while millions of Americans faced unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic. One in five Americans is covered by Medicaid. Medicaid is a lifeline for people living with chronic conditions, people who are disabled, and people taking care of a sick family member. For those who are well enough to work, Medicaid helps sustain their health care while they look for employment. In fact, enrollees report that Medicaid made it easier to look for employment. Thanks to the Biden Administration, tens of millions of people can breathe a little easier today knowing that their inability to work will not be used as a reason to deny them their fundamental health care rights.”

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 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.