



Shakira Croce, [scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org), 646-757-7052

## **Amida Care Applauds Governor Cuomo for Expanding Access to PrEP and Taking Action to Protect LGBTQ New Yorkers from Discrimination**

*New Actions Instruct New York Insurers to Cover PrEP without Cost-Sharing and Require Standards for Health Insurer ID cards to Protect Consumers from Discrimination*

(New York – July 24, 2019) Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, released the following statement commending Governor Andrew Cuomo for expanding access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to help prevent HIV and for taking action to protect LGBTQ New Yorkers from discrimination in health care:

“Governor Cuomo’s new actions will make PrEP affordable for more New Yorkers, ensure that everyone has the information they need to access quality health care, send a clear message that discrimination will not be tolerated, and will help us reach our goal of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York by 2020.”

“PrEP is a game-changing treatment regimen that has proven to be over 90% effective in preventing the transmission of HIV. Unfortunately, it is out of reach for many New Yorkers who cannot afford co-pays and deductibles. By requiring that PrEP be covered without cost-sharing, Governor Cuomo is allowing more New Yorkers to take control of their sexual health, which will save millions of taxpayer dollars associated with treating HIV.”

“Additionally, arming New Yorkers with vital insurance information and guaranteeing that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is protected from discrimination in health care settings, will help remove barriers to health care faced by too many in the LGBTQ community.”

“These actions are critically important at a time when the rights and health of LGBTQ Americans are under threat from the federal government. We thank Governor Cuomo for his leadership, continued support of the LGBTQ community, and his unwavering commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York.”

### **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](http://www.amidacareny.org).