



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds Governor Cuomo for Signing the Gender Recognition Act into Law

New York (June 25, 2021) – **Amida Care**, New York State’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers affected by HIV, has issued the following statement from President and CEO **Doug Wirth** applauding Governor Andrew Cuomo for signing the Gender Recognition Act into law. The Gender Recognition Act will add a gender-neutral option for birth certificates and other state-issued documents, allowing New Yorkers to identify their own gender:

“Individuals of transgender and gender non-conforming experience face discrimination at every turn -- in housing, employment, education, and in health care settings. Allowing transgender, non-binary, and intersex New Yorkers to select a gender that accurately reflects their identity is a critical step that will support them not only in living with dignity, but in accessing the health care they need to live healthy, authentic lives.”

“Transgender individuals represent over 20% of Amida Care’s total membership, and Amida Care is proud to have a long history of breaking down barriers and supporting the transgender and gender non-conforming community in accessing high-quality, gender-affirming care. To date, more than 1,100 transgender Amida Care members have accessed gender-affirming surgery. Every trans member is surrounded by an integrated care team of providers, social workers, health navigators, behavioral health specialists, and a designated health home, which work together to address the needs of the whole person. This kind of support leads to better health outcomes. Of Amida Care’s transgender members living with HIV, 93% are virally suppressed. Amida Care also assists transgender members who are HIV negative with accessing highly effective HIV prevention tools like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).”

“Amida Care applauds Governor Cuomo for signing this landmark legislation, and for Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Danny O’Donnell for their leadership in getting this bill passed in the legislature. Amida Care will continue to advocate to ensure that transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers have access to quality, culturally competent, gender-affirming health care. This is vital to ensure that New York reaches the goal articulated by Governor Cuomo back in 2014 of ending the HIV epidemic once and for all.”

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.