



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Amida Care Statement on U.S. House of Representatives Oversight Committee Hearing on PrEP Pricing and Access**

(New York, NY - May 20, 2019) - The following is a statement from Amida Care on the May 16 House of Representatives Oversight Committee hearing on pricing and access as it relates to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP):

“Amida Care is encouraged by the House Oversight Committee’s commitment to advance efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States, as demonstrated by holding a committee hearing dedicated exclusively to exploring access to PrEP, which is over 90 percent effective at preventing sexual transmission of HIV.

“Increasing access to PrEP for all persons at elevated risk for HIV is crucial if we are to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. The pharmaceutical drug maker Gilead Science, elected officials, the Department of Health and Human Services, and community leaders and advocates all have important roles to play to ensure that PrEP is accessible to all persons, regardless of their income.

“Currently, people who experience elevated risk for HIV -- particularly Black and Latino men who have sex with men, transgender women, and women of color -- face significant barriers when accessing PrEP and consequently use PrEP at significantly lower rates than other communities. It is imperative for education and outreach about PrEP to prioritize reaching these populations.

“It is estimated that only 200,000 of the 1.2 million people in the U.S. who could benefit from PrEP are accessing it. For people without health insurance, PrEP is nearly unattainable. For this reason, Medicaid expansion at the state level is critical. Expansion has significantly increased access to care for people living with HIV and can ensure that Americans living at an elevated risk for HIV can access the prescriptions they need to stay HIV negative.

“In New York State, to advance the state’s goal to End the Epidemic by 2020 under the leadership of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the NYS State Department of Health is working to increase the number of Medicaid recipients on PrEP from 6,000 to 30,000 by 2020. Amida Care -- New York’s largest Medicaid Special Needs health Plan, serving members who are living with or at elevated risk for HIV -- is committed to increasing PrEP uptake rates for communities that are disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic. Since our plan expanded to enroll HIV-negative transgender individuals in 2017, 25% of our more than 500 HIV-negative transgender members have accessed PrEP. We are working with the State of New York to expand our services to all communities who live at elevated risk for HIV, which we believe is an important step in the fight to end the HIV epidemic once and for all.”

**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 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).