



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Amida Care Statement on Presidential Inauguration**

New York (January 20, 2021) – **Amida Care**, New York State’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers living with complex conditions like HIV, has issued the following statement from President and CEO **Doug Wirth** regarding the January 20th inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris:

“Amida Care extends warm congratulations to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. We have much work to do to heal and to recommit to our efforts to create the world we want to live in. We are hopeful that the next four years will advance policies that move us closer to equity and justice for all Americans, including a coordinated federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic that makes an effective vaccine available and equitably distributed.

We look forward to efforts by the Biden-Harris Administration and the 117th Congress to ensure that all Americans have access to health care and to build on the Affordable Care Act, which granted health care coverage to millions of individuals living with HIV through Medicaid expansion.

Medicaid, the single largest payer of care for people living with HIV, remains absolutely vital to the overall health of our nation. However, in states with the highest incidences of HIV, Medicaid remains woefully underfunded. Medicaid and safety-net health care is also critical to stopping the COVID-19 pandemic. We are eager to see progress to improve access to Medicaid for those who could benefit.

We support the issues outlined by our partners at AIDS United, which include declaring racism as a public health issue, reestablishing the Office of National AIDS Policy and ensuring it is led by someone living with HIV, rolling back discriminatory policies enacted by the previous administration, and passing the Equality Act.

At the federal level, we will continue to advocate for policies that dismantle systemic racism, promote LGBTQ and women’s rights, and break down barriers that prevent us from becoming a healthier, more just society. President Biden has already demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in his administration, selecting diverse voices including Dr. Rachel Levine for Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), who would be the first openly transgender federal official ever confirmed by the U.S. Senate. We also celebrate Kamala Harris becoming the first woman and person of color to ascend to the office of the Vice Presidency. While the struggle for equality is far from over, this

achievement represents a moment of pride for many of us, especially those who see themselves represented in Vice President Harris.”

**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).