



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds U.S. House of Representatives for Passing of Equality Act; Urges Senate to Swiftly Pass Bill

New York, NY (February 25, 2020) -- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act, a landmark piece of legislation that will update existing federal nondiscrimination laws to confirm that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is unlawful. Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers living with and affected by HIV, issued the following statement applauding the bill's passing in the House and encouraging the Senate to quickly pass this legislation:

“Amida Care is excited by the recent news of the Equality Act’s passage in the House. This long overdue legislation will expand anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ Americans, ensuring that people can no longer be lawfully discriminated against in employment, housing, credit, education, and other vital areas of everyday life.

Amida Care has always stood up for the rights of LGBTQ Americans to live authentically, work, and flourish without the fear of discrimination. For too long, LGBTQ people in America have been vulnerable to injustices that have unfairly affected the ability of many to keep a roof over their head, hold a stable career, and maintain their financial security. Discrimination has devastating medical consequences as well, leading to grave health disparities faced by LGBTQ Americans, including higher rates of HIV and COVID-19.

The Equality Act affirms that discrimination has no place in our society, and represents a promising step towards the ultimate goal of ensuring social justice for all Americans.

We extend special thanks to the late U.S. Representative John Lewis, U.S. Representative David Cicilline, and Senators Jeff Merkley, Tammy Baldwin, and Cory Booker, who introduced this bill in 2015, and we strongly urge the Senate to pass this legislation as swiftly as possible so it can be signed by President Biden.”

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.