



## **For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Assistant Director of Communications

[scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org), (917)-565-4444

# **Amida Care Celebrates Confirmation of Dr. Rachel Levine as Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS**

New York (March 25, 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 confirmation of Dr. Rachel Levine as Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). With yesterday’s confirmation, Levine became the first openly transgender federal official ever confirmed by the U.S. Senate:

“Amida Care congratulates Dr. Rachel Levine on her confirmation as Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS. Dr. Levine is an inspired choice for this important position. As Pennsylvania’s Secretary of Health, she led the Commonwealth’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic with distinction, and her vast experience will be invaluable in helping to foster healthier communities throughout our entire country.”

“Dr. Levine’s confirmation -- the first-ever U.S. Senate confirmation of an openly transgender federal official -- is an important and historic moment. For too long, our nation’s health care system has suffered from a lack of diversity and inclusion in leadership. As we detailed in our report ‘[Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care](#),’ people of transgender experience face extreme health disparities. Having a health care provider who is part of the community in a top leadership position represents a tremendous step forward.”

“Dr. Levine’s confirmation is a signal from the federal government that people of transgender experience will be a priority, and that their expertise is valued. Amida Care stands ready to support Dr. Levine and HHS to fulfill on a promise of gender affirming care and services across our country, and build upon the successes we’ve led here in New York. We wish Dr. Levine great success as she starts her new position, and we are confident she will do her utmost to advance equity in our nation’s health care system.”

**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).