



## **For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Assistant Director of Communications  
[scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org), (917)-565-4444

# **Amida Care Celebrates Selection of Rachel Levine as Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS**

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 selection of Dr. Rachel Levine as Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Levine would be the first openly transgender federal official ever confirmed by the U.S. Senate:

“Amida Care applauds the Biden-Harris team for their nomination of Dr. Rachel Levine, a deeply qualified and historic choice to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS.

Dr. Levine’s impressive experience includes currently serving as the secretary of health in Pennsylvania, where she leads the state’s fight against COVID-19. In 2016, Dr. Levine gave the keynote presentation at Community Healthcare Network’s Sixth Annual Conference on Transgender Health in New York, which Amida Care sponsored, where she detailed how people of transgender experience need and deserve access to comprehensive, culturally competent, gender-affirming health care.

For too long, our nation’s health care system has lacked of diversity of experience in leadership. Dr. Levine’s nomination is a signal from the Biden administration that equity for people of transgender experience will be a priority and that their expertise is valued. As detailed in Amida Care’s report, “[Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care](#),” there are many gaps and disparities in quality of care for the transgender community; having a provider who is part of the community in a top leadership position represents a tremendous step forward.

We congratulate Dr. Levine and look forward to the Senate’s swift confirmation of Dr. Levine, so that she may get to the hard work ahead of her 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).