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Amida Care Denounces Trump Administration's Actions to Degrade the ACA

Washington, D.C. (October 20, 2017)—Last week, President Trump signed two executive orders for policy changes that would wreak havoc on the health of the nation. These measures would erode patient protections and are a strategy to sabotage the Affordable Care Act (ACA) following repeated legislative defeats to repeal it. These actions eliminate consumer protections ensuring that health insurance plans offer quality coverage. The actions also end cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurance companies, which make health insurance affordable for low-income Americans.

If put into effect, the changes to the ACA will be disastrous for millions of Americans who will no longer be able to afford quality health insurance, especially those with chronic and pre-existing conditions. The orders encourage healthy people to purchase cheap health plans with insufficient coverage while eliminating state consumer-protection regulations. Without healthy people in the market, funds to cover pre-existing conditions will be gutted, premiums for plans that offer quality coverage will skyrocket, and the health care industry and state insurance marketplaces will be destabilized.

Middle class Americans would be the most likely to see premium increases and could be forced into poverty. This would increase the need for Medicaid, which serves as the backbone of health coverage for more than 74 million Americans already. Medicaid isn't welfare; 60 percent of adults with Medicaid coverage are working.

“President Trump’s dangerous attempt to destabilize the health insurance industry—20% of the U.S. economy—is an attack on the basic right to access quality health care,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “By eliminating safeguards in federal law for health insurance plans, President Trump is putting the physical and financial health of millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions in jeopardy. Hard-working Americans shouldn’t be forced into poverty or have their health suffer because they are unable to afford care.”

Access to health care for all is a win-win for everyone. Health care is a fundamental human right—a right, not a privilege. Amida Care urges Congress to work together to approve bipartisan legislation to stabilize the marketplace and extend CSR payments, which would improve, not impede, access to meaningful health care.

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