Amida Care Condemns Trump Administration's Recent Filing Urging the Supreme Court to Overturn the Affordable Care Act

(New York, NY – June 26, 2020) Doug Wirth, president and CEO of Amida Care, New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan, released the following statement in response to the Trump Administration's recent filing in the Supreme Court, urging the overturn of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides health care for over 20 million Americans:

"For over three years, the Trump administration's relentless assault on the Affordable Care Act has jeopardized health care for millions of Americans. We condemn this latest attempt to overturn the ACA, which would leave millions of Americans without health insurance in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and severely set back our nation's efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

This move could not be more poorly—or cruelly—timed. This filing came the same day the federal government reported that close to half a million people have lost their health insurance as a result of losing their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaffirming that the ACA is particularly crucial during a health crisis like the current pandemic to promote access to care.

The current health crisis demonstrates the urgent need to make quality, affordable health care *more* accessible to all Americans. Communities of color experience serious structural barriers to accessing quality, affordable health care, including discrimination, higher rates of poverty, and lower rates of health insurance, which make them more likely to get sick and die from the coronavirus. The ACA is vital to helping people of color access health care. Thanks to the ACA, the uninsured rate for Black Americans fell from 19.9% in 2010 to a low of 10.7% in 2016. This was driven largely by states that expanded Medicaid. We need to build on this work and do all we can to break down systemic barriers and fight for health care access, social justice, and equity for communities of color.

While the Trump Administration makes bold claims and promises about ending the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030, its consistent attacks on programs that support Americans living with and placed at elevated risk for HIV tell a different story. Prior to the passing of the ACA, Americans living with HIV struggled to get insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions, cost barriers, and Medicaid eligibility limitations. These barriers were largely removed by the ACA, and as a result, Medicaid coverage of people with HIV increased significantly nationwide, driven by states that embraced Medicaid expansion. Today, 40 percent of Americans living with HIV who are in care are covered by Medicaid.

Actions speak louder than words. The Trump administration has continued to attempt to undermine the ACA and Medicaid, two of our most powerful tools in the fight to end HIV in the United States.

Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally is a goal within our reach, and overcoming the COVID-19 health crisis is possible. If President Trump's intentions are genuine, he must stop attacking the ACA and ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care."

About Amida Care
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 who are 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.