

For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Condemns Trump Administration's Draconian Immigration Policies

New York, NY (June 21, 2018) - Doug Wirth, president and CEO of <u>Amida Care</u>, New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement in response to President Trump's executive order regarding the so-called "zero tolerance" immigration policy:

"Like so many other people of conscience, we are appalled by the Trump Administration's immigration policy toward people coming to this country to better their lives and the lives of their children and loved ones. Make no mistake -- the executive order signed by President Trump yesterday, ending the separation of families at the border, is no solution at all. It will not reunite the parents and children who have already been separated, and the Administration is now proposing to lock up children and families in mass prison camps.

The Trump Administration's cruel, blatant disregard for human rights is atrocious, and the consequences to the physical, mental, and emotional health of its victims will reverberate for years to come. At Amida Care, we're calling on Congress to do the right thing and do what they were elected to do: legislate true, humane, and person-centered immigration reform based on the foundational American principles of justice and freedom. Meaningful immigration reform must include pathways for citizenship, which so many immigrants to America have benefitted from and have helped to shape our nation."

Here's what you can do:

- Call Congress: The ACLU has a call tool specifically for <u>Senators</u>; the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has a call tool that directs calls, social media posts, and emails to all <u>members of Congress</u>.
- Participate in the <u>End Family Separation NYC Rally and March</u> on June 30th as part of the nationwide #FamiliesBelongTogether actions.
- Volunteer with organizations that provide direct assistance to these families, including <u>Stand With Immigrants</u>, <u>Immigration Justice Campaign</u>, and the <u>CARA Pro Bon Project</u>.
- Council Member Mark Levine's office is collecting donations of children's clothing, diapers, and toys for the immigrant children stranded in New York at 500 West 141st Street; 212-928-6814.

If you have immigration-related questions, resources are available:

- <u>ACTION NYC</u> (helps find free, safe immigration legal help in your community)
- Legal Action Center
- <u>GMHC Legal Services</u>: To make an appointment, please contact legal@gmhc.org or call 212-367-1328 or 212-367-1308

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with chronic 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

 $\label{thm:medicaid} \begin{tabular}{ll} Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit $$\underline{www.amidacareny.org}$.$