



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds Governor Hochul for Proposals to Address Health Equity and Strengthen Medicaid in State of the State Address

New York, NY (January 6, 2022) -- Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid managed care Special Needs Plan, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's State of the State address:

"Amida Care applauds Governor Hochul for outlining several proposals that will advance health equity, strengthen Medicaid and support LGBTQ communities throughout New York State. We are encouraged by her proposals to create and preserve supportive housing for people living with HIV or AIDS, to create a Center for Medicaid Innovation to lower costs and improve care, and to close the Medicaid coverage gap for seniors and people with disabilities. We also appreciate new initiatives to address racial justice issues. These proposals will help ensure that the most vulnerable New Yorkers have access to the care they need to live healthy, fulfilling lives."

"We also thank Governor Hochul for her continued support of New York's LGBTQ community. LGBTQ communities experience high rates of discrimination, poverty, and health disparities, including the ongoing HIV epidemic. We are thrilled the Governor has committed to investing in LGBTQ health services. We also applaud her initiatives to support trans and gender non-conforming New Yorkers by ensuring gender-affirming treatment is available in State correctional facilities and that all public-facing agencies provide an 'X' gender-marker option for gender non-conforming people."

"The proposals put forth by Governor Hochul today represent a commitment that will help break down barriers to care faced by so many in the LGBTQ community and communities of color, advance health equity and move us closer to ending the HIV epidemic in New York once and for all. The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the importance of public health, while also revealing startling inequalities in health outcomes, and stalled our effort to end the HIV epidemic. We look forward to hearing more concrete details around plans to end the HIV epidemic and the critical need to support safety-net HIV providers and strengthen Medicaid. As a Medicaid Health plan founded by HIV providers, serving communities most affected by inequities, Amida Care welcomes the opportunity to work with the Governor and Department of Health to fulfill the commitment."

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.