



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Condemns Texas Judge's Ruling on Affordable Care Act

New York, NY (December 17, 2018) – Doug Wirth, the President and CEO of [Amida Care](http://www.amidacareny.org), New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), issued the following statement in response to the federal ruling in Texas related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

“The December 14 federal ruling puts the health of 20 million Americans into jeopardy. For those individuals who live with chronic conditions, such as HIV and Hepatitis C, playing politics with health care is a life or death situation.

Thanks to the ACA and Medicaid expansion, we've made concrete and steady progress toward ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic here in America. Medicaid coverage for HIV-positive people [rose](#) from 36 percent in 2012 to 42 percent in 2014. Without access to health care provided by the ACA, thousands of people living with HIV will be facing a formidable barrier to accessing HIV treatment that enables them to become virally suppressed. Viral suppression is key to preventing new HIV infections; a person living with HIV who has an undetectable viral load cannot transmit the virus to others: “Undetectable equals Untransmittable” (U=U). This court decision is a step in the wrong direction and threatens to undo all of the progress we've made thus far.

Without access to health coverage, people living with pre-existing and chronic conditions will have no choice but to visit the emergency room more frequently, be hospitalized more often, require costly nursing homes, rack up higher medical bills, and get pushed into poverty. Those higher costs are ultimately passed on to the government, insurers, and taxpayers. We are grateful to New York State Attorney General Barbara Underwood; New York Attorney General-Elect Letitia James; and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra for their commitment to fight the decision and are hopeful that this dangerous decision will be reversed.”

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 Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.