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Amida Care Applauds Cuomo Administration for Standing Up for Transgender New Yorkers and Opposing Discriminatory HHS Rule

(New York, NY - August 7, 2019) Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, released the following statement, applauding Governor Andrew Cuomo and his administration for opposing a recent proposal by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to roll back protections for people of transgender experience and gender nonconforming individuals in health care settings:

“Amida Care applauds the Cuomo administration for opposing discriminatory rules that target people of transgender experience and gender nonconforming individuals. These communities already face significant discrimination in health care. According to recent surveys, 1 in 4 transgender respondents reported having to teach health care professionals about transgender care, 28% report having been harassed in a doctor's office, and nearly 25% avoided seeing a doctor out of fear that they would be mistreated. This proposed rule from HHS will mean that our transgender neighbors, and the entire LGBTQ community, will face even steeper barriers to care.”

“Governor Cuomo understands that there is no excuse for health care professionals to refuse medically necessary care to people because of who they are, and by denying access to care to people in communities heavily affected by HIV, we undermine our ability to end the epidemic. Among transgender Americans living with HIV, 19% have reported being refused treatment due to their gender identity. This proposed rule from HHS is in direct opposition to the Trump administration's stated goal of ending HIV/AIDS in America by 2030. In contrast, New York under Governor Cuomo's leadership is working to expand access to HIV treatment and prevention for the LGBTQ community, with a Blueprint to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic by 2020.”

“NYS Department of Financial Services Superintendent Linda Lacewell correctly stated in her letter to HHS that this proposed rule was ‘a direct attack on individuals who have historically faced discrimination.’ In America, there is no place for attacks on specific populations or on the health care access that is a basic human right, not a privilege. We applaud Governor Cuomo and his team for working to create equitable access to health care, and protecting the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid for all who need it.”

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.