



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Condemns Trump Administration's New Public Charge Rule

New York, NY (August 12, 2019) – 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 newly released "public charge" rule that will penalize immigrants who use critical public services, including accessing public health programs like Medicaid:

"The Trump Administration's decision to penalize immigrants who access vital social services undermines our ideals as a nation and will adversely impact public health and state budgets. Make no mistake about it—under this rule, millions of people throughout the United States will avoid seeking medical attention, which is incredibly dangerous on a number of levels. Rather than punish immigrants, we should ensure they are connected to the services they need, like health care, housing, and food assistance, to live productive lives and contribute to our communities," said Wirth.

"This new rule will be especially damaging to our attempt to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Immigrants living with HIV will not be able to get the treatment they need to become virally suppressed, which jeopardizes their health and makes it more likely for HIV to be transmitted to others. In addition, fewer individuals who are HIV negative will be connected to proven HIV prevention methods, like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Furthermore, this rule is fiscally reckless. It will lead to new cases of HIV, which are expensive to treat—one new HIV infection can amount to as much as \$500,000 in lifetime medical costs. It will drive immigrants away from primary and preventive care and force those who are living with HIV and other chronic conditions to seek regular care in hospital emergency rooms, which is more costly to taxpayers," Wirth added.

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 chronic 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.

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