



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2018

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Amida Care Applauds Lawsuit Against Short-Term, Limited-Duration Plan Final Rule, Which Would Undermine Americans' Health Care Needs

New York, NY (September 17, 2018) – Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, New York's largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan for New Yorkers living with and at risk for HIV, issued the following statement commending a [lawsuit](#) filed by seven health care organizations against the short-term, limited-duration plan final rule. This rule will harm patients and their families as well as others in the health care system by undermining access to quality, affordable coverage, and will destabilize the Affordable Care Act (ACA), significantly disrupting insurance markets in states across the country.

“Short-term, limited-disability health plans are junk plans that will strip away protections for health care consumers, jeopardize the health care of thousands of Americans and create financial instability in the national health care market. Access to quality and affordable health care is already a challenge for far too many individuals in this country. By shifting premiums in making short-term, limited-disability health plans more appealing for younger, healthier people, this is another attempt to sabotage the ACA and destabilize our nation's insurance markets, causing health care to become increasingly unaffordable for people with complex medical conditions. The ACA and Medicaid expansion have been life-savers for millions of Americans, including thousands of people living with HIV. As a result of the Medicaid expansion, Medicaid coverage for HIV-positive people [rose](#) from 36 percent in 2012 to 42 percent in 2014.

With this rule, we risk halting—or worse, reversing—the progress made to end the AIDS epidemic. Americans living with complex health conditions need comprehensive, quality health care. The short-term health plans allowed under this rule will be able to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions and discriminate against those battling addiction, making it much harder for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured, including those with behavioral health issues or people living with chronic conditions like HIV/AIDS. Without access to comprehensive health insurance, many people have no choice but to visit the emergency room more frequently, are 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.

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 leads to viral load suppression. 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).

Amida Care applauds ACAP, AIDS United, NAMI, and the other health organizations for their leadership in protecting the health care needs of all Americans.”

Amida Care is a proud member of two of the organizations who filed the lawsuit, the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) and AIDS United. The other health organizations involved in the lawsuit are the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Mental Health America, American Psychiatric Association (APA), National Partnership for Women & Families, and Little Lobbyists.

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.