

**For Immediate Release**

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Amida Care Applauds Initial Blocking of Public Charge Rule

New York, NY (October 15, 2019) – Doug Wirth, president and CEO of [Amida Care](http://AmidaCare.org), New York’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan, released the following statement after a federal judge blocked the Trump Administration’s ‘public charge’ rule. The rule, which would penalize immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps and Medicaid by denying them green cards and visas, was set to take effect today.

“Thanks to this injunction, our immigrant communities can breathe a small sigh of relief today. We’re grateful that the judicial system is providing a much-needed check on the executive branch, as the Trump Administration continues its assault on our foreign-born neighbors. People are [already avoiding care](#) as a result of this proposed rule, and if it takes effect, hundreds of thousands more will avoid seeking medical attention, which would have disastrous effects on public health and our economy.

“If implemented, the ‘public charge’ rule will put our collective public health at risk and undermines the President’s own stated goal of Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic by 2030. By making it harder for immigrants to access health care, we risk turning the clock back on the progress we’ve made in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Rather than denying care to those who need it, we should be investing in greater outreach and education services in communities hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which includes immigrant communities. By blocking a potentially disastrous policy, this injunction is a step in the right direction, and we are hopeful that the judicial system will continue to block this irresponsible policy in the event of an appeal.”

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.

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