



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2021

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Assistant Director of Communications

scroce@amidacareny.org, (646) 757-7052

Amida Care Applauds NYS Legislature and Governor Cuomo for Repealing “Walking While Trans” Loitering Law

(New York, NY) - Doug Wirth, President & CEO of Amida Care, New York’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), which is dedicated to breaking down health disparities and advocating for health equity for underserved communities, issued the following statement in response to the New York State Legislature repealing a statute that allows police to use their discretion to interpret what constitutes loitering for prostitution, which Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law today. In practice, the majority of those targeted for enforcement are transgender and non-binary people who are people of color:

“For too long, this discriminatory loitering statute has been used to unfairly target and harass people of transgender experience, particularly transgender women of color, simply for existing. Transgender individuals already face discrimination at nearly every turn, as Amida Care detailed in a recent [report](#). This results in devastating consequences for their health care access, housing, employment opportunities, and more. We commend the Legislature for recognizing that this discriminatory treatment cannot be tolerated, and for protecting the rights of transgender and non-binary New Yorkers.”

“We thank Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Carl Heastie for their leadership on this important issue, and Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Amy Paulin for their work on this legislation. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all of the advocates who pushed this issue to the forefront. We thank Governor Cuomo for signing this legislation into law.”

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.