



**Contact:**

Shakira Croce, Communications Manager

646-757-7052; [scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org)

## **Amida Care Commemorates World AIDS Day 2017**

New York, New York – December 1, 2017 – As Amida Care commemorates World AIDS Day 2017, we remember those we've lost, celebrate the advancements we've made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and take and urge continued action to break through the remaining hurdles to end the epidemic once and for all. In the U.S., 1.1 million people are living with HIV; worldwide 36.7 million people are living with HIV.

Thanks to decades of advocacy and medical advancements, HIV is a manageable chronic condition. Just last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that a person living with HIV who has an undetectable viral load cannot transmit the virus to others. We now know that [Undetectable equals Untransmittable](#) (U=U). In New York City, the number of new HIV infections has reached a historic low, from 5,902 in 2001 to 2,279 in 2016.

This year, World AIDS Day falls amid continued actions by Congress and the Trump administration that, if successful, would undermine America's access to health care. The recently proposed tax bill will cut taxes for large corporations and the extremely wealthy at the expense of millions of hard-working Americans. The repeal of the individual mandate will lead to sky-high premiums, and the bill threatens safety net programs such as Medicaid. As a result of the ACA and Medicaid expansion, Medicaid coverage for HIV-positive people [rose](#) from 36 percent in 2012 to 42 percent in 2014. People with chronic conditions like HIV count on Medicaid for health insurance. It enables them to lead healthier, more productive lives and greatly reduces the chance of HIV transmission, which gets us closer to ending AIDS as an epidemic.

Now more than ever, we must mobilize to preserve and increase health care access, especially for those communities that face the greatest barriers.

Nearly 90 organizations including Amida Care urge Congress not to pass a tax bill that threatens efforts to end the HIV pandemic: <https://tinyurl.com/yba69eps> .

[Read Amida Care President and CEO Doug Wirth's HuffPost blog on fighting HIV stigma.](#)

###