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Amida Care Statement Condemning DOJ Filing in Support of Decision to Strike Down ACA

New York, NY -- Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, a specialized Medicaid health plan for people living with or at elevated risk for HIV, issued the following statement on the Department of Justice's (DOJ) filing with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The DOJ is seeking the affirmation of a lower court ruling in the *Texas v. United States* health care lawsuit, which would result in the end of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that provides health coverage to 21 million Americans:

"In the two years since President Trump was inaugurated, his administration's relentless assault on the ACA and Medicaid has jeopardized efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"Getting people into care is critical to ending the HIV epidemic. Prior to the passing of the ACA, people living with HIV struggled to get insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions, cost barriers, and Medicaid eligibility limitations. The ACA removed these barriers, and, as a result, Medicaid coverage of people with HIV increased significantly--from 36% to 42% being covered.

"If the Administration succeeds in this latest assault on the ACA, Medicaid expansion would end, state marketplaces for health insurance would close, and treatment and care access for people living with HIV would be severely restricted. There are 52 million non-elderly Americans who have a pre-existing condition. If the DOJ is successful, 27% of them, including the 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, could be denied access to health insurance.

"While the Trump Administration continues to make bold claims and promises about ending the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030, his administration's consistent actions to undermine the ACA at every turn tell a different story. Actions speak louder than words, and the Trump administration's actions don't indicate a commitment to end the epidemic.

"Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally is well within our reach, but only with the right approach. If President Trump's intentions are genuine, he needs to stop attacking the ACA and ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care."

About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit Medicaid health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex 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.