

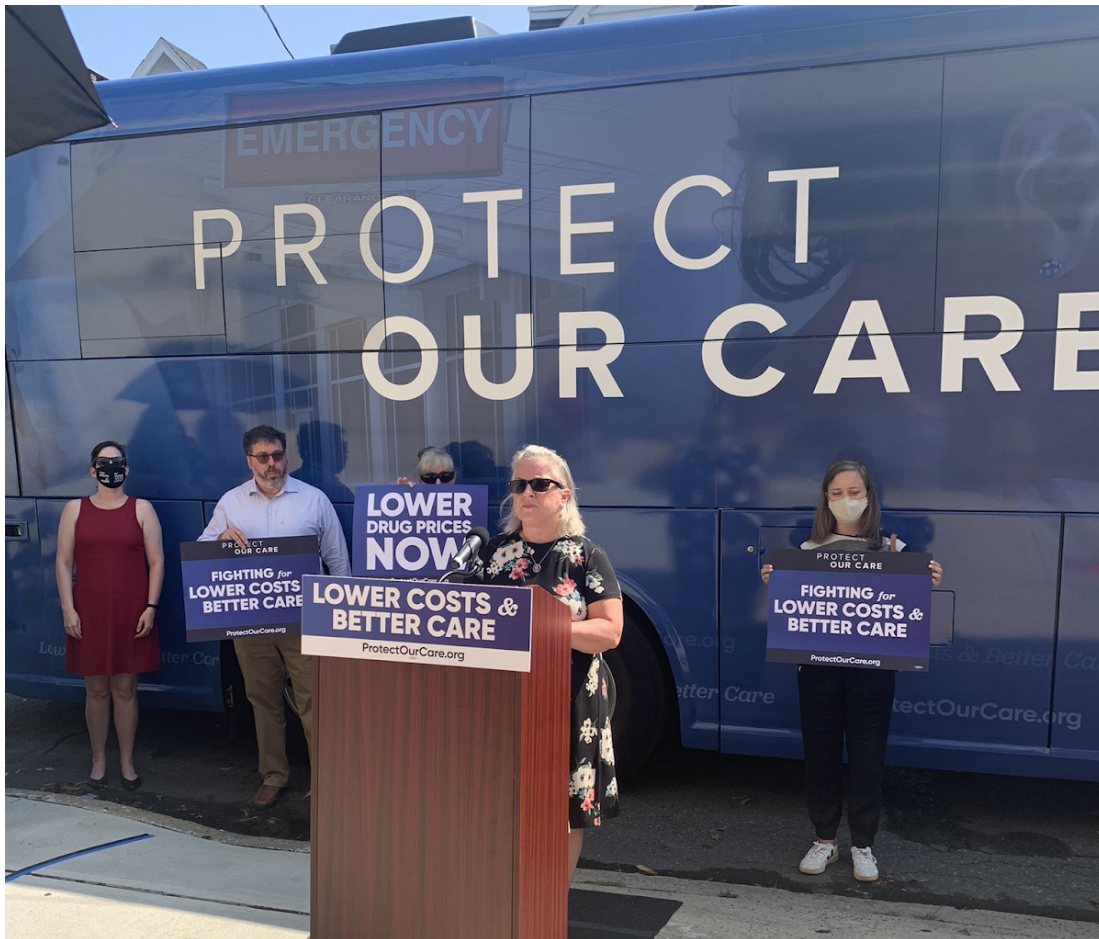
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Representative Susan Wild, Health Care Advocates Call for Lower Costs and Improved Health Care for Pennsylvanians

Representative Susan Wild, Health Care Advocates Join Protect Our Care on the Nationwide “Lower Costs, Better Care” Bus Tour to Demonstrate the Urgent Need to Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs, Expand Access to Care, Improve Home Care, and Cover Pennsylvanians Who Fall Into the Medicaid Gap



Allentown, PA - This morning, Protect Our Care’s “Care Force One” arrived in the Lehigh Valley to demonstrate the need for lowering Pennsylvanians’ health costs, expanding coverage, improving home care, and reducing racial disparities in care. Headlined by Representative Susan Wild, the event highlighted how Democrats are leading the charge to advance American health care and held Republicans accountable for continuing to reject measures to improve care and lower costs for Pennsylvanians.

[Read Protect Our Care's new report: Lower Costs, Better Care for Pennsylvanians here.](#)

Throughout the nationwide ["Lower Cost, Better Care"](#) bus tour, Protect Our Care is fighting to ensure critical health care measures supported by President Biden remain in upcoming budget reconciliation legislation. These priorities include giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices for all Americans, getting more Americans covered by closing the Medicaid gap, expanding Medicare benefits to include hearing, dental, and vision, and further reducing health care premiums for millions of Americans who purchase coverage on their own.

You Can Watch the Event [Here](#).

"The soaring price of prescription drugs is crushing Americans at the pharmacy counter, driving up health insurance premiums, and creating unaffordable costs for taxpayers who finance Medicare," said Representative Susan Wild. "No American should be forced into an impossible choice between life-saving medicine or food on the table, and it's long-past time to tackle this problem head on. We must take a bold step with the reconciliation bill and ensure that families can afford their medications by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and bring down drug costs for families across the commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

"This tour is giving Americans from all walks of life the opportunity to speak out about the pressing need to lower health care costs and improve care," said Protect our Care Pennsylvania State Director Michael Berman. "Pennsylvanians have the right to know whether their elected officials stand by President Biden's agenda to improve health care for millions or if they side with Big Pharma and other special interests. When Congress returns this fall, we have a once in a generation opportunity to transform health care for the American people, including lowering prescription drug prices, closing the Medicaid coverage gap, and further reducing health costs for people purchasing coverage on their own. Care Force One is crisscrossing the country this summer making the case for getting this critical job done."

"When I was fighting stage 4 cancer, I had to forego medication that would boost my immune system because the price tag was simply too high. I wound up in the hospital, and nearly died," said Laura Packard. "Sadly, stories like these are all too common in our country. Patients should be able to focus on getting well, not struggling to pay for medications. That's why we need Congress to act now to lower the cost of prescription drugs, including allowing Medicare to negotiate prices on behalf of all Americans."

"Professional caregivers like me, along with people from all across the nation who need care, are speaking with one voice to say: Care can't wait," said Lynn Weidner, an Allentown caregiver and member of the United Home Care Workers of PA. "It's time for Congress to take action and vote to pass legislation that expands access to home care services and invests in caregivers. Together, we can provide the care that so many people want in their homes and we can build the strongest, most racially diverse middle class in our nation's history."

“For over fifteen years, Medicare has been prohibited from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies for lower prices. That is fifteen years too many,” said Robin Stelly, the Statewide Director for the Pennsylvania Health Access Network. “It’s long past time for seniors to get the help they need. [With her leadership on the issue of Medicare negotiations] Rep. Wild is working in Congress to put people first. We need more members of Congress to do the same.”

Next week, “Care Force One” will head to Wilkes-Barre on Monday, where Protect Our Care will be joined by Representative Matt Cartwright. For more information, please visit protectourcare.org/bus-tour/.

The Protect Our Care “Lower Costs, Better Care” Bus Tour is making stops in:

Bangor, Maine on Monday, August 9, 2021
Portland, Maine on Monday, August 9, 2021
Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Concord, New Hampshire on Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Teaneck, New Jersey on Friday, August 13, 2021
Allentown, Pennsylvania on Thursday, August 12, 2021
New York, New York on Friday, August 13, 2021
New Brunswick, New Jersey on Monday, August 16, 2021
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on Monday, August 16, 2021
Burlington County, New Jersey on Tuesday, August 17, 2021
Wilmington, Delaware on Tuesday, August 17, 2021
Dover, Delaware on Tuesday, August 17, 2021
Morgantown, West Virginia on Wednesday, August 18, 2021
TBD, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Youngstown, Ohio on Thursday, August 19, 2021
Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, August 19, 2021
Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Friday, August 20, 2021
Madison, Wisconsin on Friday, August 20, 2021
Parkersburg, West Virginia on Monday, August 23, 2021
Charleston, West Virginia on Monday, August 23, 2021
Raleigh, North Carolina on Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Charlotte, North Carolina on Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Columbia, South Carolina on Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Atlanta, Georgia on Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Savannah, Georgia on Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Orlando, Florida on Thursday, August 26, 2021
Tampa, Florida on Thursday, August 26, 2021
Denver, Colorado on Monday, August 30, 2021
Flagstaff, Arizona on Tuesday, August 31, 2021
Phoenix, Arizona on Tuesday, August 31, 2021
Tucson, Arizona on Wednesday, September 1, 2021
San Diego, California on Thursday, September 2, 2021

Anaheim, California on Thursday, September 2, 2021

Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday, September 3, 2021