

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Jonathan Coby, [jcoby@nexusstrategies.com](mailto:jcoby@nexusstrategies.com), 919-745-0691

## Charlotte City Councilman Malcolm Graham, Action NC, Little Lobbyists, and Health Care Advocates Call for Action to Lower Costs and Improve Health Care for North Carolinians

*Councilman Malcolm Graham, Action NC, and 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 Health Care and Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap*



**Charlotte, NC** — This afternoon, Protect Our Care’s “Care Force One” joined Action NC in Charlotte to demonstrate the need for lowering North Carolinians’ health costs, expanding coverage, and reducing racial disparities in care. Headlined by Charlotte City Councilman Malcolm Graham, Health Care Voter Executive Director Laura Packard, and Little Lobbyists Community Engagement Director Stacy Staggs, 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 North Carolinians.

Read Protect Our Care’s new report: **Lower Costs, Better Care for North Carolinians** [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](#).**

“Everyday people, our neighbors, our friends, our aunts and uncles — are dying unnecessarily because they can’t afford the cost of prescription drugs or don’t have access to care,” **said Charlotte City Councilman Malcolm Graham**. “We need to give the people what they need — we need to close the Medicaid coverage gap, improve Medicare, and lower drug prices now.”

“North Carolinians are sick and tired of Republicans standing in the way of reforms that would lower costs and improve care, and today we are holding them accountable,” **said Action NC Executive Director Pat McCoy**. “President Biden and Democrats are fighting tirelessly to ensure every American has affordable, accessible, and reliable health care, while Republicans continue their attempts at sabotage. Protect Our Care and Action NC are proud to stand with members of Congress and elected officials that are fighting for the lower costs and better care that all Americans deserve.”

“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.”

“My dad passed away from diabetes in 2018. I spent years watching them wring their hands at the kitchen table about the rising cost of insulin and all the other things that go with it,” **said Stacy Staggs**. “My parents were public school teachers. They lived a life of service and they deserved, as everyone does, access to affordable prescription drugs and health care.”

Tomorrow, “Care Force One” will head to Atlanta where Protect Our Care will be joined by local elected officials and community leaders. For more information, please visit [protectourcare.org/bus-tour/](http://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 Thursday, August 12, 2021

**Bethlehem, Pennsylvania** on Thursday, August 12, 2021

**New York, New York** on Friday, August 13, 2021

**New Brunswick, New Jersey** on Monday, August 16, 2021  
**Scranton, 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  
**Pittsburgh, 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