

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **ICYMI: Congressional District Director and Flagstaff Mayor Paul Deasy Call for Lower Costs to Improve Health Care for Arizonans**

***Congressional District Director Keith Brekhuis and Flagstaff Mayor Paul Deasy Join Protect Our Care on the Nationwide “Lower Costs, Better Care” Tour to Demonstrate the Urgent Need to Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs***



**[FLAGSTAFF]** - On Tuesday, Protect Our Care’s “Care Force One” arrived in Flagstaff to demonstrate the need for lowering Arizonans’ health costs, expanding coverage, and reducing racial disparities in care. Headlined by Congressional District Director Keith Brekhuis and Flagstaff Mayor Paul Deasy, 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 Arizonans.

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

“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. Arizonans 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,” said cancer survivor and health care advocate Laura Packard. “I wound up in the hospital, and nearly died. 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.”

“Congressman O’Halloran has been a leader in the fight to lower Arizonans’ drug and premium costs, expand coverage, strengthen benefits for seniors and reduce racial disparities in care,” said Congressman O’Halloran’s District Director Keith Brekhus. “We have a once in a generation opportunity to transform health care for the American people, and the Congressman and his Democratic colleagues are working tirelessly to ensure measures to lower costs and expand care become law this fall.”

“Arizonans are sick and tired of Republicans standing in the way of reforms that would lower costs and improve care, and we will hold them accountable,” said Coconino County Democratic Party Chair Ann Heitland. “Democrats are fighting tirelessly to ensure every American has affordable, accessible, and reliable health care, Republicans continue their attempts at sabotage and put Big Pharma and other special interests first. Democrats like Congressman O’Halloran are fighting for the lower costs and better care that all Americans deserve.”

Today “Care Force One” will head to Tucson, where Protect Our Care will be joined by State Senator Kirsten Engel and Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans. For more information, please visit [protectourcare.org/bus-tour/](https://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