

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## PROTECT OUR CARE

### ***ICYMI: Representative Kelli Butler Calls for Lower Costs to Improve Health Care for Arizonans***

***Representative Kelli Butler Joins Protect Our Care on the Nationwide “Lower Costs, Better Care” Tour to Demonstrate the Urgent Need to Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs***



**PHOENIX —** On Tuesday, Protect Our Care’s “Care Force One” tour arrived in Phoenix to demonstrate the need for lowering Arizonans’ health costs, expanding coverage, and reducing racial disparities in care. Headlined by Representative Kelli Butler, 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”](#) 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,” said Morgan Tucker, State Director for Arizona Protect Our 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 Laura Packard, Cancer survivor and health care advocate. “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, Congressman Stanton, and Congressman Gallego have been leaders in the fight to lower Arizonans’ drug and premium costs, expand coverage, strengthen benefits for seniors and reduce racial disparities in care,” said Butler. “We have a once in a generation opportunity to transform health care for the American people, and they are working tirelessly with their colleagues 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 Sandra Cole, President of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans. “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 the 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**

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