

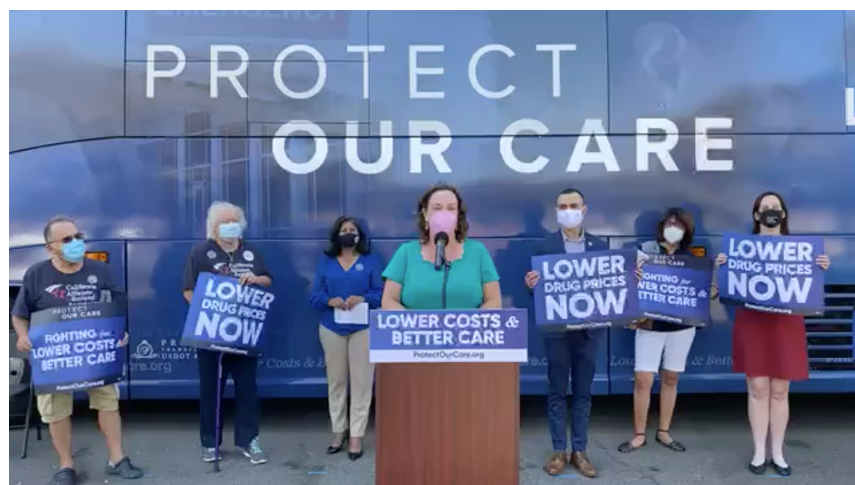
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Thursday, September 2, 2021**

**Contact: Deborah Camiel, 818-299-3656, [deborah@50p1.com](mailto:deborah@50p1.com)**

## **Congresswoman Katie Porter and Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan Call for SoCal Members of Congress to Lower Costs and Improve Health Care for Californians**

***Representative Katie Porter, Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan, 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 Prescription Drugs***



**Tustin, CA** - This afternoon, Protect Our Care’s “Care Force One” arrived in Tustin, California to demonstrate the need for lowering Californians’ health costs, expanding coverage, and reducing racial disparities in care. Headlined by Congresswoman Katie Porter and Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan, the event highlighted how Democrats are leading the charge to advance American health care and held Republicans and those who don’t support Rx drug pricing reform accountable for continuing to reject measures to improve care and lower costs for Californians.

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

**Congresswoman Katie Porter (CA-45):** “For too long Congress has sat on its hands instead of taking meaningful action to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for Americans. Perhaps it’s because big pharma spends more than any other industry on its lobbying efforts. Or maybe it has to do with the fact that over two-thirds of Congressmembers cashed a check from big pharma before the 2020 election.... Already this year big pharma has spent 15 million dollars in lobbying.... Here’s my message to big pharma: Bring it on. I am used to tough fights. I have seen the corporate special interest playbook and it will not work on me. If you’re going to keep trying to cheat the American people, I will call you out every single time. You owe the American people, the taxpayers and the patients an explanation for why prescriptions cost so much and we are no longer buying your line of B.S. about research and development. You owe us an explanation for why your executives are making millions while Americans are going without pills or cutting them in half. You owe us an explanation about why you line your pockets with our tax dollars. Patients are tired of the lies. With the American people working together, we’re going to start putting patient before profits.

**Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan:** “We all know that there is an urgent need to lower health care costs, expand coverage, lower prescription drug prices, expand Medicare benefits to include hearing, dental and vision and reduce racial health disparities across California and the country.... A 2021 survey found 74% of Californians reported that lowering the costs of prescription drugs was extremely or very important to them. Knowing that more than seven million Californians have chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes and asthma that require prescription drugs for treatment and management, we must act fast. That’s why we need all our elected leaders to get behind these critical health care measures supported by President Biden and our Democrats in Congress.”

**Laura Packard, Health Care Advocate and Cancer Survivor:** “While I was going through treatment, my oncologist prescribed to me a drug to help my immune system recover faster from the chemotherapy. This drug was \$13,000, so I went without and I wound up in the hospital for a week and almost died. In the richest country in the world, nobody should be forced to make these choices. The drug I was prescribed was built on research we already paid for as taxpayers. We pay and then we pay again and again and too many of us can’t afford to pay any more.”

**Bryant Miramontes, Health Access Senior Campaign Organizer:** “Innovative cures and life-saving medications only help patients when they can afford to access them.... Every Member of Congress must prioritize people over profits, including Congressman Correa. It’s time for lawmakers to tell their constituents which side they are on.”

Tomorrow, “Care Force One” will head to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Protect Our Care will be joined by local elected officials and health care advocates. For more information, please visit [protectourcare.org/bus-tour/](https://protectourcare.org/bus-tour/).

**The Protect Our Care “Lower Costs, Better Care” Bus Tour has made 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  
**Tustin, California** on Thursday, September 2, 2021