

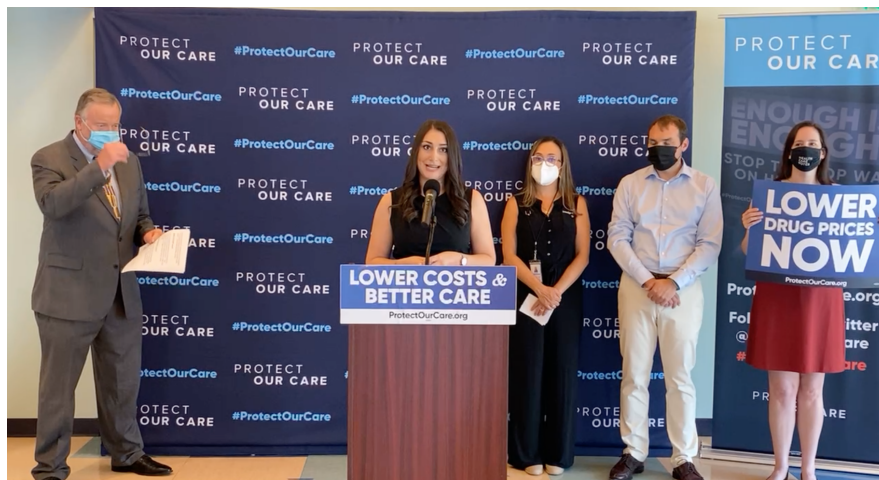
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Congresswoman Sara Jacobs and President of West Health Policy Center Tim Lash Call for SoCal Members of Congress to Lower Costs and Improve Health Care for Californians

Rep. Sara Jacobs, West Health's Tim Lash, 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



San Diego, CA - This morning, Protect Our Care's "Care Force One" arrived in San Diego to demonstrate the need for lowering Californians' health costs, expanding coverage, and reducing racial disparities in care. Headlined by Congresswoman Sara Jacobs and President of West Health Policy Center Tim Lash, 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](#).

Representative Sara Jacobs (CA-53): “Health care is a human right and if the last 18 months have shown us anything it’s that health care isn’t just a niche side issue. It’s fundamentally connected to every part of our lives, of our society, and our economy. And if we want to have a just and equitable society, we have to have a just and equitable health care system.... We are a biotech hub here in San Diego, but don’t let anyone tell you that the price of being able to innovate is high prescription drugs for all of us. That is a false choice—we can do both. We can make sure families are able to afford prescription drugs and we can continue being a leader in research and innovation and new drug production.”

Paul Downey, CEO of Serving Seniors: “Every day we strive to alleviate the financial pressure on our seniors, but we can’t lower the drug prices that they’re faced with every day, and in many cases it takes them to the brink of homeless and sometimes beyond.... One in four seniors, or more than ten million nationwide, struggle to pay for their lifesaving and life-changing medicine. For decades, big pharma has been raising drug costs well above the rate of inflation.... For the folks here at Serving Seniors, raising the cost of a prescription by even ten dollars can lead a senior to skip taking that medication.... No person should have to choose between necessities like food, rent, or medicine.”

Laura Packard, Health Care Advocate and Cancer Survivor: “While I was going through treatment, my doctor prescribed a drug for me to help me recover from chemotherapy faster. That drug was \$13,000, so I went without and I wound up in the hospital for a week and nearly died. In the richest country in the world, we shouldn’t have to make these choices. We shouldn’t have to live like this.”

President of West Health Policy Center Tim Lash: “There is mortality that co-travels with high drug prices.... It’s not just a financial consequence—It’s a matter of life and death. And to put numbers on it, over a ten-year-period there’s roughly one million Medicare beneficiaries that will die because they simply cannot afford their prescription drugs. To put that into perspective, over the ten-year campaign in Vietnam there were north of 55,000 American soldiers that lost their lives. Tragic. One million lives lost because of non-adherence because people cannot afford their drugs. Tragic. It’s intolerable.... It doesn’t just impact those who are over 65. We did a study with Gallup News Group and we found that those under 65 were more than two times more likely to skip taking a drug because they simply couldn’t afford it.... It’s clear that the only responsible thing to do, the only ethical thing to do, the only human thing to do is to advance bold legislation.”

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/.

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