



## The Patients Over Politics Bus Tour

*Engage. Educate. Empower.*

**August 27 to September 6, 2012**

12 days. 7 cities.

*Patients and providers are standing together, demanding that politicians put patients over politics – implement and build on the Affordable Care Act to move the nation toward healthcare for all.  
Join us!*

### **Our Vision**

Imagine an America where every person has a fair shot at good health. A country where everyone can get health care without risking bankruptcy. A place where patients and providers drive health care decisions for themselves, their communities, and the country.

For years, we have been getting farther and farther from this vision as we watched millions of Americans struggle without health insurance and millions more battle rising costs in a terribly inefficient system.

Two years ago, things took a big turn for the better when we passed the Affordable Care Act. Already, 2.5 million more young adults are newly insured. Millions of seniors have received billions of dollars to help pay for their medications. Hospitals and doctors' have started to improve coordination and safety of care in response to the ACA's incentives. And millions of patients are now enjoying protections from insurance company discrimination. Many more stand to benefit from the reforms that start in 2014. After a generation of struggle for a better health care system, we are finally moving toward a health care system that serves all Americans.

### **The Threat**

But we now face an urgent threat: Many politicians and special interests are seeking to benefit politically by making health care reform all about partisan politics – instead of about people. Health care isn't a Republican or Democratic issue - it's an American issue. But an unrelenting barrage of partisan rhetoric has left 2 out of 3 Americans confused or frankly misinformed about the ACA. Millions of senior citizens still believe the outrageous lies that government death panels will deny them care after the age of 70. They have no idea that the ACA will strengthen Medicare and guarantee them access to preventive services. And the confusion is only getting worse.

Politicians are capitalizing on this misinformation with an all-out effort to repeal and defund the Affordable Care Act. They've already had small successes - passing a bill to repeal the law in the House of Representatives, coming close to invalidating the ACA's guarantee of contraception access for women, and slashing billions of dollars from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. If they continue to succeed, we will lose the biggest step we've taken in a generation toward comprehensive health reform. At a human level – that means that people will die who could have been helped.

There is only one force that can stop this assault on health care reform and hold politicians' feet to the fire: A coalition of patients and providers.

### **Our Opportunity**

Doctors, working with patients and other health care providers, have the power to move the conversation on health reform away from Republicans and Democrats and back toward **people**. We have the power to put patients and providers at the helm of reform efforts. We have the power to turn the country back from confusion and toward a health care system that provides everyone with good care - by implementing and building on the Affordable Care Act.

*Doctors for America is a national movement of 15,000 doctors and medical students working together to improve the health of the nation and to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, high-quality health care.*  
[www.drsofamerica.org](http://www.drsofamerica.org)



No matter what happens at the Supreme Court in June, politicians and the country need to know that patients and providers are standing up together for a health care system that puts patients first.

As physicians, we have the power to bring this important coalition together. People trust doctors more than politicians or corporations. If we mobilize our communities around the urgency of reform and the need to act now, people will stand up for their right to current reforms and beyond.

### **Our Strategy**

From August 26 to September 6, we will lead an unprecedented coalition of patients and providers on a historic bus tour from the RNC Convention in Tampa, Florida, to the DNC Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our message to the nation: patients and providers are standing together to demand that politicians put people over politics and work with us to implement the ACA and create the further reforms that we need to get good health care for everyone.

As the most politically engaged people in the country in both parties gather Tampa and Charlotte, we will make sure as many people as possible see patients and providers taking a stand and educating people about the facts on health reform. On the road between Tampa and Charlotte, we will stop in cities and towns to get the word out. We will also conduct health care screenings – to promote the expanded prevention benefits that health reform is bringing to millions of Americans.

Throughout the summer leading up to the bus tour, we will mobilize people across the country to understand the urgent need to move health reform forward. We will share the truth about health reform's impact on our communities. We will organize through town halls, house meetings, social media, and targeted state campaigns – to recruit people to come to the march in person and to sign our declaration and share stories so we can bring thousands of people's voices on the road with us.

### **Our Tentative Route and Main Stops**

We also plan to stop in other locations along the way.

August 27 to August 30: Tampa, Florida (Republican National Convention)

August 31: Daytona and Jacksonville, Florida

September 1: Atlanta, Georgia

September 2: Columbia, South Carolina

September 3-6: Charlotte, North Carolina (Democratic National Convention)

### **The Patients Over Politics Bus Tour Needs One Thing Most of All: YOU**

**ON THE BUS:** Whether you can meet us at one city or join us on the road, this historic event is not to be missed! Families and friends are encouraged to join as well!

**RECRUITER / EDUCATOR:** Spread the word. Work with fellow physicians and advocates to educate your community about health reform and recruit people to attend the march and sign our declaration of support. We will train and support you!

**SUPPORTER:** Sign our declaration of support. Our goal is to bring thousands of voices and stories on the road with us to present to politicians along the way.

**BACKER:** Donate \$100, \$500, or \$1000 to help us succeed.

Have ideas to share? Have an extra bed at a stop on the bus route? Know a reporter who would love to cover our journey? The success of this summer will depend on your ideas and resources. Let us know!

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