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**PDA HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE/CNA/NNOC GOTV BUS TOUR ROLLS
INTO NORTHEAST OHIO**

Fixing Our Broken Health Care System, Northeast Ohio Leg

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Oct. 22, 2008--Tim Carpenter, National Director of **Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)**, along with Donna Smith and Adrian Campbell, both featured in the Michael Moore movie **SiCKO** and health care reform advocates for the **California Nurses Association (CNA/NNOC)**, a spokesman from **the Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)**, and Tallmadge, OH resident Michael Carano of **Single-Payer Action Network of Ohio (SPAN Ohio)** will make multiple stops in Northeast Ohio calling out for the best solution to the crumbling health care delivery system—a doctor/patient, publicly financed, privately delivered single-payer system as found in **Rep. John Conyers' House Resolution 676**.

The deteriorating health care system is a prime issue of the 2008 presidential campaign, and these organizations advocate for the most efficient and humane way to revamp the health care system. Polls show that a majority of doctors and the public, favor a government solution to the health care crisis. The national organizations PDA, CAN/NNOC, PNHP, and the state organization SPAN Ohio all are working to push candidates and elected representatives to have the courage to address the crisis head-on by taking on the insurance industry, the main obstacle to a less expensive and more efficient system that would make health the center of it rather than sickness and denial of care.

Making stops in the Cleveland, Akron, and the Youngstown areas, the SiCKO/Health Care Not Warfare Bus Road Show is raising awareness in hope of building public support--as well as raising congressional courage to support “real” change in how health care is administered. Bill O’Neill, candidate for Congressional District 14, will also speak at two of the events. Mr. O’Neill, who is also a registered nurse and former Judge, will share his knowledge of our current system and the need for change.

The members of the GOTV Bus Tour hope to make the United States join every other industrialized nation in the world by implementing a national health care system,--an expanded and improved Medicare-like system--not muddled by a profit motive and guaranteed to take care of illness and promote wellness for all Americans.

Find the schedule of events here:

<https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/309/mtglist.asp?formid=meet&mtgview=L>.

For background information on the groups participating in the Bus Tour, please see the following links:

Progressive Democrats of America, www.pdamerica.org

Single Payer Action Network of Ohio, www.spanohio.org

California Nurses Association, <http://www.calnurse.org>

National Nurses Organizing Committee, <http://www.calnurse.org/nnoc>

Physicians for a National Health Program, <http://www.pnhp.org>

Rep. John Conyers' H.R. 676, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.00676>:

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Roadshow Itinerary for Weekend

Saturday, Oct 24, 2008

10 a.m. – 12 noon: [Bill O'Neill Press Conference/Rally in Willoughby](#)

WHERE: Gazebo at Public Square, downtown Willoughby. Also meet the Roadshow crew and gets answers on the health care crisis and its solutions

2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.: [Undecided Voter Outreach in Cleveland](#)

WHERE: West Side Market-- Meet Donna Smith of the California Nurses Association and Adrian Campbell, both featured in the Michael Moore movie SiCKO along with other members of the SiCKO Roadshow for "Undecided Voter Outreach", Corner of West 25th and Lorain in the Ohio City Neighborhood

Oct 25, 2008

9:30 a.m.: [Kickoff Canvassing and Phone Calling with the PDA/CNA crew in Akron](#)

WHERE: Laborers' International Union of North America Local 894, 720 Wolf Ledges Parkway, Akron, Ohio

Donna Smith from the SiCKO movie, Co-Chair of PDA Healthcare NOT Warfare Campaign Tim Carpenter, PDA National Director; Michael Carano, SPAN Ohio Region 6 Coordinator will be present. Also scheduled at the Labor Hall, the “Bush Legacy Tour Bus” – a 45’ Bush Legacy Museum on Wheels - shows the worst Bush/Conservative public policy failures that have harmed our National Security, ruined our economy, threatened our Social Security, eviscerated our health care, and sacrificed key domestic priorities.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: [Community Town Hall Meeting in Stow](#)

WHERE: Stow Safety Building, The Community Room, 3800 Darrow Road (entrance off of Graham Road, just west of Darrow Rd.

Public Forum: Bill O’Neill, Democratic candidate U.S. for Congress, Ohio 14th district, along with the Road Show crew and SPAN Ohio activists and member, Donna Smith of the California Nurses Association, speaker from Physicians for a National Health Program, and Michael Carano, PDA State Coordinator and Region 6 Single Payer Action Network of Ohio respectively speaking about the national and state movements for seriously revamping health care.

Crew will walk to the corners of Graham and Darrow for human bill-boarding and sidewalk rally from 1-2 P.M. SiCKO Bus tour then departs to Niles, Ohio, leaving behind the PDA crew for another series of activities related to PDA.

6:30 p.m.: [PDA National Reception for New Medina PDA Chapter in Medina](#)

WHERE: 5535 Champion Creek Blvd., Medina, OH 44256-- Meeting at the home of Dave Kelley, long time PDA supporter and speech and policy writer for Rep. Dennis Kucinich, along with Medina members who are coming together to start a new PDA chapter in Medina’s congressional district.

Sunday, Oct 26, 2008

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: [PDA/Portage Democratic Coalition Progressive Brunch in Kent](#)

WHERE: Mike’s Place, Kent, Ohio, Corners of SR 261 and Rte. 43--Gathering of Portage Democratic Coalition (A PDA Chapter) for a meet, greet, and eat with Tim Carpenter, national director of PDA. Discussion of PDA candidates and presidential election.

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.: [Community Town Hall to Discuss Healthcare in Cuyahoga Falls](#)

Where: Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, 2345 4th St., Hopewell Room, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221—Health Care discussion and a showing of "extras" from SiCKO movie about HR676. Speakers: Adrian Campbell, featured in SiCKO, Tim Carpenter, PDA National

Director, Michael Carano, SPAN Ohio Region 6 Coordinator, and Mary Nichols-Rhodes, LPN; PDA Ohio

Short article about who is Tim Carpenter

TIM CARPENTER: BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

Posted by Matt Coker in [A Clockwork Orange](#)

October 20, 2008 5:25 PM



"I haven't seen you since 1988," **Tim Carpenter** says with astonishment as he finally recognizes the progressive activist whose hand he's been shaking during a brief break between a press conference and rally for Democratic candidates at the **Teamsters Local 952** union hall in Orange last Friday.

Before 2002, if there was a demonstration for homeless rights or against the death penalty or nuclear proliferation, you can bet he was not only there, he probably organized it. Partially for financial reasons and partially because he is needed on the national stage, Carpenter left Orange County in 2002 to become a top organizer for **Dennis Kucinich's** presidential bid before becoming executive director of the [Progressive Democrats of America \(PDA\)](#), which is based in his new home state of Massachusetts.

Carpenter's political awakening came at a very early age. As **Nick Schou** told it eight years ago in ["The Importance of Being Tim"](#):

His first political crisis came in the sixth grade at St. Cecilia Catholic School in Tustin, when his radical politics almost got him expelled. Instead, Sister Cathy defended him from critics—and later joined the Bilateral Nuclear Freeze Initiative movement Carpenter helped found in Orange County.

He was in his mid-teens when he worked on the first unsuccessful effort to get an Orange County woman, **Vivian Hall**, elected to Congress, and he played vital parts of nearly every progressive cause in Orange County, beginning with **George McGovern's** 1972 presidential race against **Richard Nixon**. He was active in the Catholic Worker movement throughout the 1980s, sleeping on concrete at night to help protect the homeless from harassment by Santa Ana police, and in the 1990s he

helped organize the Orange County chapter of Families Against Three Strikes. He has been locked up for protesting, spoke at the Democratic National Convention in 1992 and counts **Bonnie Raitt**, **Jackson Browne** and **Jerry Brown** among his many dear old friends.

Carpenter's day job was teaching history and government throughout Orange County, including Irvine Valley College, Marina High School in Huntington Beach and Rosary High School in Fullerton.

In fact, his latter stop is part of *OC Weekly* lore. Shortly after **Loretta Sanchez** took Bob Dornan's congressional seat, the bombastic Republican, who Carpenter had previously campaigned against and debated with over nukes, honored an invitation to address Carpenter's class in October 1998. But Dornan seized the opportunity to question the Catholic school teacher's credentials and the sincerity of his religious beliefs. The *Weekly's* then-music editor, the late **Buddy Seigal**, who'd gone along for the ride just to see Dornan in action, got so upset he stomped out of the classroom yelling, "YOU'RE A SCUMBAG!" at "B-1 Bob."

It's important to mention that Carpenter has performed his tireless advocacy despite being saddled with degenerative arthritis, the effects of which still linger today. Local and nationally known progressives got together in 1999 and held a fundraiser to netted \$50,000 to help offset his medical expenses. Of Carpenter, **Tom Hayden** said that fine day, "Always outside the box." That willingness often put Carpenter at odds with don't-rock-the-boat Democrats. He clashed with then-President **Jimmy Carter** over nuclear arms and then-President **Bill Clinton** over welfare reform. Locally, then-OC Democratic Party chairwoman **Jeanne Costales** once said Carpenter was not representative of mainstream Orange County Democrats, to which a *Weekly* scribe brilliantly noted, "That's because Carpenter can chew his own food."

The PDA -- whose advisory board includes Hayden, **Medea Benjamin** and **Jim Hightower** -- works at the grass-roots level to champion peace and justice. Among Carpenter's first actions was pressing for answers in November 2004 about voting irregularities in Ohio after **John Kerry's** campaign dropped the issue. Though Kerry would have won the presidency had he won Ohio, it was Carpenter and the PDA who won a House Judiciary Committee hearing on the screwy Ohio vote.

This election cycle, the PDA and Carpenter have organized rallies against the [the Wall Street bailout](#). Carpenter: "The **Bush administration** has spent more than \$800 billion for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now they're demanding a \$700 billion blank check for Wall Street using the same old scare tactics and threats to avoid public debate and Congressional oversight. Our members are showing our support for a responsible plan by rallying against the Bush Blank Check Bailout. We say, 'Bring Home the Troops and Bail Out Main Street--not Wall Street!'"

Carpenter and PDA are also campaigning for "**Healthcare Not Warfare**," which is what brought him home to Orange County and the Teamsters hall on Marks Way. (For more on the press conference that preceded the rally, check out "[Democrats Proudly Wear the Union Label](#).") In trying to get Democrats to embrace the idea that the U.S. should bring the troops home and use the money spent in Iraq on providing healthcare for all, the PDA has lent its support not only to **Barack Obama's** presidential campaign but races farther down the Democratic ticket. With reports that Republican [Dana Rohrabacher's Huntington Beach-based seat is in play](#), Carpenter joined the Teamsters in organizing a get-out-the-voter-registration's drive leading into the weekend.

Wait a sec: Democrat [Debbie Cook's race is in play?](#)

"Depends on who you ask," Carpenter confided at the break, explaining that at least one poll shows a 5 percent differential, which would be within the margin for error or the beneficiary of a timely push from PDA and its army of nurses calling for Healthcare Not Warfare, which Cook embraces. Likewise, the attention on Cook also furthers Healthcare Not Warfare.

Soon Carpenter had to break off the chat to go energize the 50 or so volunteers who'd spilled into the union hall.

"Is it time to invest in our country?" asked Carpenter.

"YEAH!" came the loud response from the audience.

"Do we need more schools not more bombs?"

"YEAH!"

Just like old times.

Short Bio of Donna Smith

Authors Website: <http://americanpatientsunited.org/>

Authors Bio: Healthcare reform activist; Appeared in Michael Moore's SICKO; Founder, American Patients United; National Co-chair, PDA (Progressive Democrats of America) Healthcare Not Warfare campaign; Communications specialist, California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee. Married to Larry Smith, 32 years; mother of six and grandmother to 14. Graduate, Colorado College, 1985. Writing is my passion -- mostly political pieces, sometimes human interest. I believe healthcare is a basic human right. I believe that the American people are champions of basic human rights and that we will win universal healthcare in my lifetime. My political hero is Sen. Tom Daschle (former U.S. Senate majority leader from South Dakota) because of his humanity and intelligence. Though I do not always agree completely with him, he has a unique ability to not look down his nose at any person of lesser station in life -- he truly embraces human dignity and makes sure his work reflects that. I was born and raised in suburban Chicago, but have lived in the western U.S, for most of my adult life until returning to Chicago in February 2008 to work for CNA/NNOC.