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<http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/print-edition/2010/12/31/town-hall-report-health-care.html>

Letter to the Editor

Letter: Town Hall report offers basis for health care debate

Premium content from Phoenix Business Journal

Date: Friday, December 31, 2010, 4:00am MST

Dear Editor,

Reg Ballantyne is on target in his op-ed in the Dec. 17 issue of the *Phoenix Business Journal*. Our current health care system is costly, chaotic, confusing, inefficient, inequitable and, on occasion, superb. The debate in the 111th Congress only proves how difficult it remains for the media and our political leaders to deal with this paradox.

The Accountable Care Act, passed in March 2010, is a positive step in dealing with health care in America. But it is not the end of the debate, and it clearly doesn't solve all of the problems that have been described by Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. The members of the 112th Congress will continue dealing with this complex issue while the bureaucrats write the rules to implement ACA.

The Arizona Town Hall met in Prescott in 2007 for four days to discuss health care in Arizona. More than 150 people from all parts of the state reached consensus on the report from that Town Hall, titled "We Must Do Better: Delivering Accessible, Affordable and Accountable Health Care to All Arizonans."

The 10 principles articulated in that report are a good starting place for the debate on health care in Arizona and the rest of this country.

The report is available online at www.aztownhall.org. "We must do better" should be the theme for 2011.

Dr. Leonard Kirschner, President, AARP Arizona; Board member, Arizona Town Hall