



50th Annual Rural Health Conference
Celebrating 50 Years of Connecting Arizona

50th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

<https://crh.arizona.edu/events/50th-annual-arizona-rural-health-conference>

50th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

**JUNE 4-5, 2024
HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER,
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA**

350 Registered

90 Organizations

Every Arizona County

Critical Access Hospitals

Rural Health Clinics

Indian Health Service Sites

Tribal-Run Clinics, Hospitals

State, County Governments

Federal: HHS, HRSA, FORHP

AzAHECs, AzCRH, ATP, APAL

ASU, NAU, UArizona, AT Still

Cooperative Extension

Advocacy Organizations:

AzRHA, AzPHA, AACIHC, AzHHA

AzAFP, SAHA, ATA



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

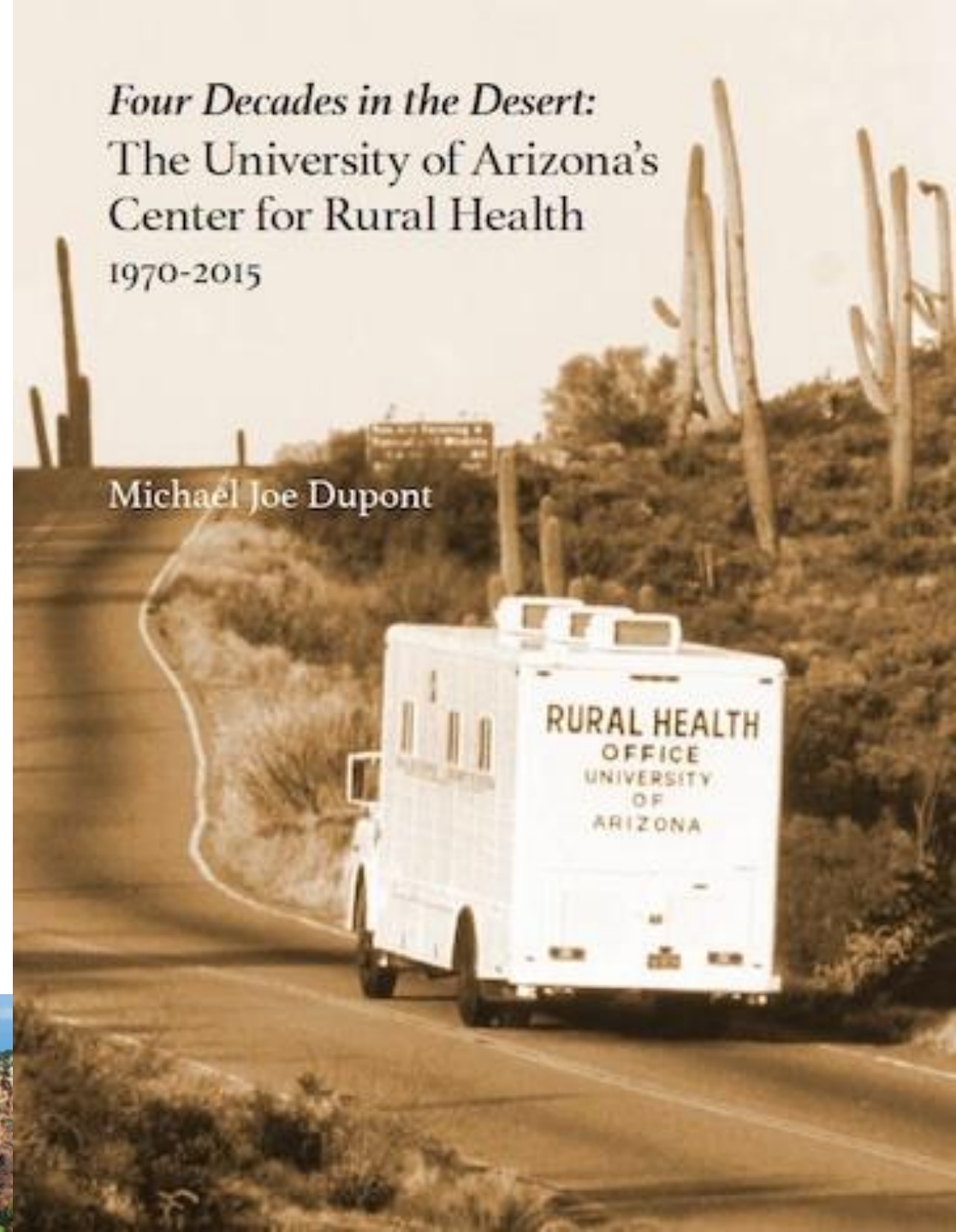
Center for Rural Health



1970 Andy Nichols MD hired at University of Arizona

1972 Gus Ortega MD began at University of Arizona

1974 First Rural Health Conference



Four Decades in the Desert:
The University of Arizona's
Center for Rural Health
1970-2015

Michael Joe Dupont

1982 Rural Health Office (RHO) chartered

1984 Area Health Education Center Program funded

1984 Dan Derksen and Krista Wills participate in community project in Potam and Vicam, Mexico

1985 Alison Hughes hired



Dan Derksen in 1984 as a University of Arizona fourth-year medical student in Yaqui villages

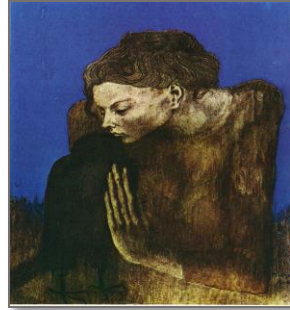


1990 Arizona State Office of Rural Health funded

1992 Andy elected; he served 4 two-year terms in House

JAMA[®]

The Journal of the American Medical Association



72%

But the 1997 legislature didn't fund it!

Arizona Overwhelmingly Adopts Health Care Initiative

Andrew W. Nichols, MD, MPH

ARTICLE | May 28, 1997

On November 5, 1996 Arizona voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 203 the [Healthy Arizona Initiative](#) “a tribute to citizen action.”

2000 Andy elected to his first term in the Senate

2000 Healthy Arizona Initiative Proposition 204 (again!)
passed by an overwhelming majority of voters – and this time
the legislature funded it:

- Increased eligibility to 100% FPL for Medicaid
- Funded Arizona Area Health Education Center Program
through state lottery dollar formula

Andy Directed the Rural Health Office 1982-2001 (19 years)

April 19, 2001 Andy passed away at age 64



“What’s past is prologue” William Shakespeare: The Tempest



6/4/2024 Dan Derksen MD

On my second try, I got into medical school just days before classes began



The University of Arizona
Health Sciences



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85724

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN
(602) 626-7383

June 16, 1980

Daniel John Derksen
1635 West Clarendon
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Dear Mr. Derksen:

It is a distinct pleasure to inform you of your selection for admission to the entering class of 1980 to the University of Arizona College of Medicine. This acceptance represents an expression of our confidence in your ability and personal fitness for a career in medicine. The faculty and administration pledge themselves to assist you in every way possible during the years of your medical education.

The medical school
game; a quest for
the fat envelope

David Simmons

6/4/2024 Dan Derksen MD



During my last year of med school (1984), I worked in rural clinics in Mexico.

Andy Nichols MD was a mentor – he founded the Rural Health Office 1982; AHEC program funded 1984



After 20 yrs on the UNM fam med faculty, in 2007-08, I worked for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) researching & drafting provisions included in Title V of the *ACA including Teaching Health Centers*



2008 State of the Union Address

On Jan. 28, 2008, President George W. Bush traveled to Capitol Hill to deliver his last annual State of the Union Address to

The House chamber is jammed with lawmakers and guests as President Bush delivers his annual address to the nation. On the Iraq war, Bush said: "While the enemy is still dangerous and more work remains, the American and Iraqi surges have achieved results few of us could have imagined just one year ago."





My Photo from Grant Park
November 4, 2008



Affordable Care Act Signed
March 23, 2010



Physician Named to NM Health Care Reform Office

September 5, 2011 By KRWG News New Mexico – SANTA FE, N.M

Gov. Susana Martinez has appointed an Albuquerque physician to a state office overseeing health care reforms.

Dr. Dan Derksen will serve as director of the Office of Healthcare Reform within the Department of Human Services.

Among the duties of the office is establishing a state health insurance exchange.

Result: Nov 15 2011 CMS awards NM \$34,279,483 to establish state based marketplace

<https://www.krwg.org/regional/2011-09-05/physician-named-to-nm-health-care-reform-office>

https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/FileLinks/a82a3947843941039704a60bdcc2c795/NM_Health_Insurance_Exchange_Establishment_Grant.pdf

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Health Reform Update – Weeks of March 26, 2012

<http://www.hemophilia-nc.org/docs/healthcare-updates/PSI-HR-Update-2012-03-26.pdf>

New Mexico

Office of Health Reform director resigns to protest exchange slowdown

The physician tabbed by Governor Susana Martinez (R) to lead New Mexico's creation of a health insurance exchange resigned last week to protest resistance from top officials to move forward.

Dan Derksen (R) headed the New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform, a panel charged with implementing the exchange required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). However, Derksen acknowledged that his efforts to implement the exchange in advance of the January 2013 federal deadline have been blocked by the Martinez Administration, which now wants to “wait and see” if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the entire ACA (see above).

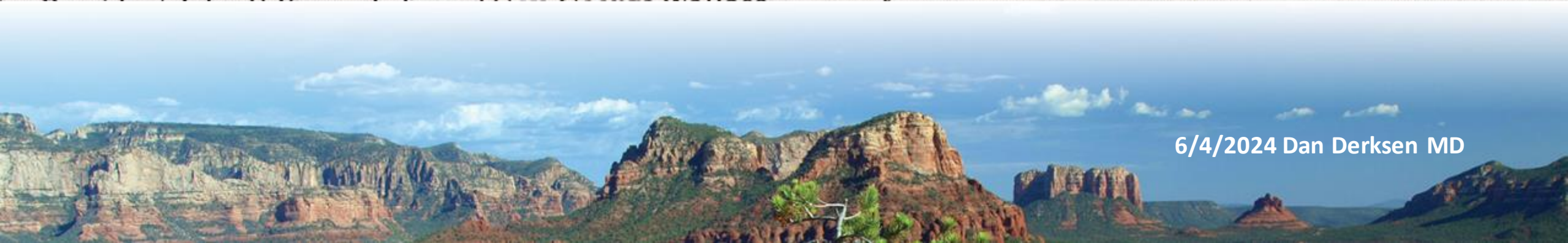
Health of Poor Americans Rests in Hands of Justices

■ *Supreme Court ruling on Affordable Care Act will ultimately decide the fate of thousands of lives*

BY DR. DAN DERKSEN June 11, 2012
*Senior Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Center for Health Policy*

the uninsured.

As a nation, we pay twice what other developed countries pay per person for health care. Yet our health outcomes are worse, far worse for the uninsured, with a widening gap as demographics change. For the first time in history, minorities comprised a majority of U.S. births (50.4 percent) in May. Hispanics in states bordering Mexico comprise over half the Hispanic population of the United States. With the presidential election nearing, candidates scurry to court their vote.



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New Mexico Medicaid To Expand Under Obamacare, GOP Governor Says

Second Republican Governor Backs Key Obamacare Provision



By Jeffrey Young, Contributor

Senior Reporter, HuffPost

Jan 9, 2013, 04:41 PM EST | Updated Dec 6, 2017



- 12/11/2012 R-NV Brian Sandoval
- 01/09/2013 R-NM Susana Martinez
- 01/12/2013 R-ND Jack Dalrymple
- 01/14/2013 R-AZ Jan Brewer
- 02/04/2013 R-OH John Kasich
- 02/06/2013 R-MI Rick Snyder
- 02/20/2013 R-FL Rick Scott
- 02/26/2013 R-NJ Chris Christie



MSNBC

Governor Jan Brewer wants to expand Arizona Medicaid program

Arizona governor Jan Brewer has agreed to a large expansion of the state's Medicaid program, a key component of President Obama's health care reform.

January 15, 2013



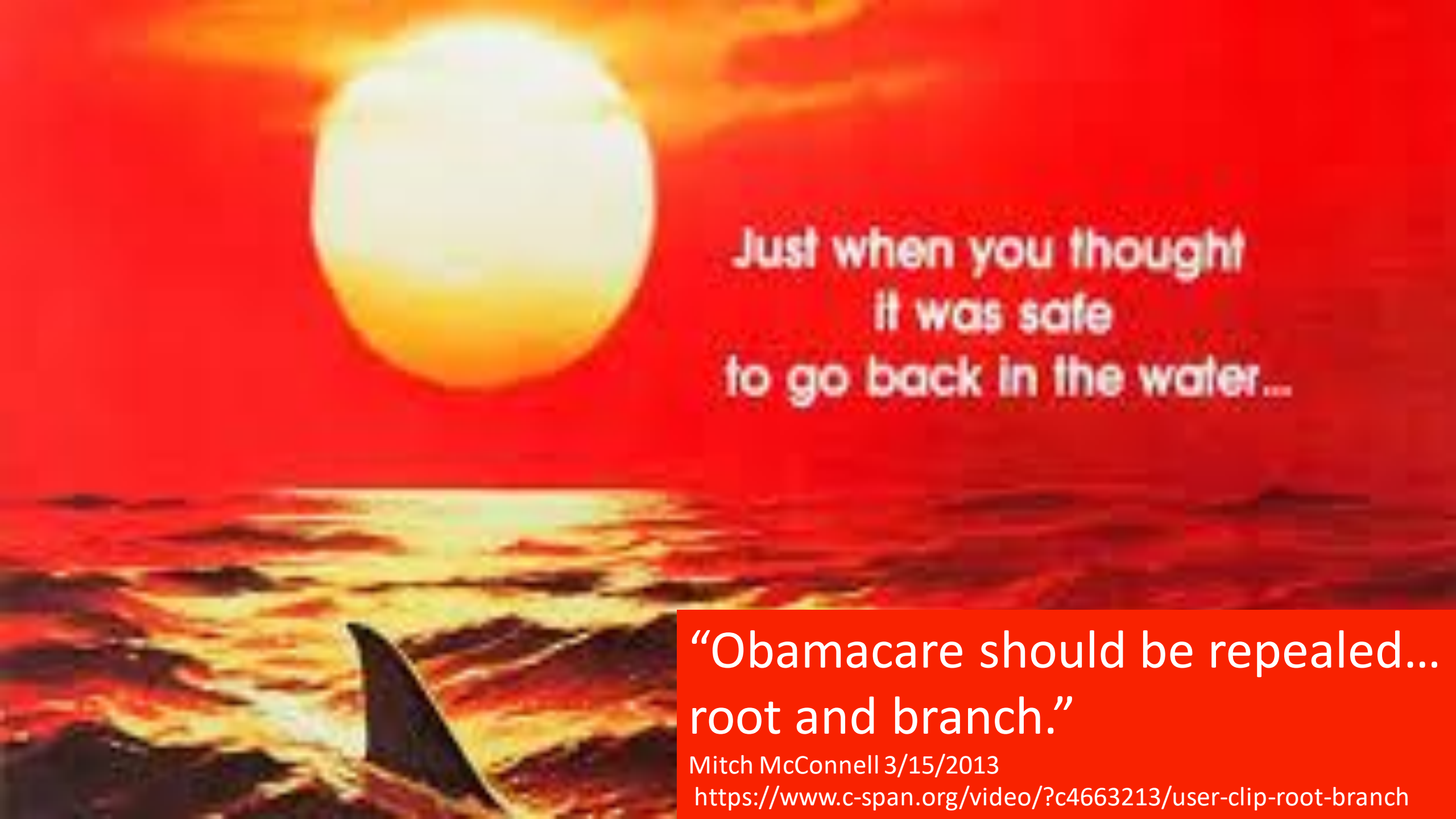
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Jan 26, 2012 "Tense Tarmac Moment"



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A sunset over the ocean with a large, bright sun in the upper left. The sky is a gradient of orange and red. The water is dark with a shimmering path of light from the sun. In the lower left foreground, a shark fin is visible, cutting through the water.

Just when you thought
it was safe
to go back in the water...

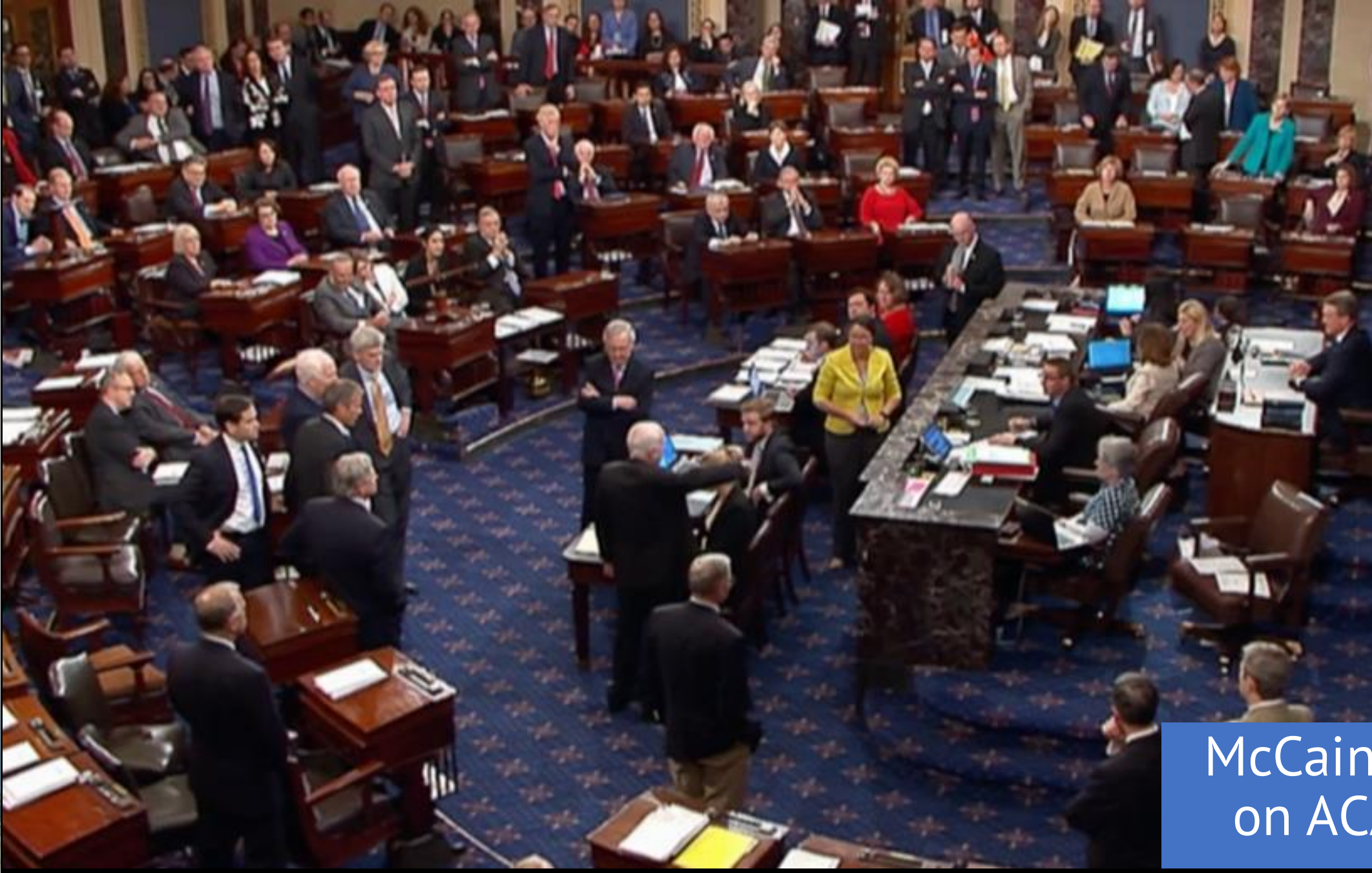
“Obamacare should be repealed...
root and branch.”

Mitch McConnell 3/15/2013

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4663213/user-clip-root-branch>

After 27 years at UNM, I returned to Arizona to apply health policy skills, address unmet rural health needs & defend coverage gains





McCain Votes NO on ACA Repeal

July 27, 2017 at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/national/mccain-votes-against-skinny-repeal-health-care-bill/2017/07/28/206422e2-7356-11e7-8c17-533c52b2f014_video.html?utm_term=.fb5b87c3c8cc

Will the Supreme Court Run the ACA off the Road?

“If you don’t know where you are going, you might end up someplace else.”

Yogi Berra



Failing to repeal ACA, opponents veered to the judicial branch

June 21, 2021
ACA Upheld 5-4

6/4/2024 Dan Derksen MD





Daniel Derksen, MD serves as Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health (since 2013), as Associate VP for Health Equity, Outreach & Interprofessional Activities (since 2018), served as AzAHEC Director (2019-23) and now serves as its Senior Advisor.

His priority areas of focus are:

Informing legislative, regulatory and program policy;

Expanding community based experiential health professions training;

Assuring a well-trained & distributed health workforce;

Improving access to health care and health insurance coverage;

Translating clinical, education & research innovation to rural and underserved populations.

Contact: dderksen@arizona.edu

