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Letter to the Editor

No plan to combat COVID-19

Re: "Virus exposes gaps in logistics responsibility, ability" (Other Views, April 16): The obvious lack of coordination/cooperation between federal, state and local governments, e.g., "LIBERATE VIRGINIA", seems to prove that the Nation Response Framework (NRF) and the National Health Security Strategy and Implementation Plan are historic failures – failures by the president, his executive branch, Congress (the watchdog) and governors (annex plans) to protect Americans from sickness, death, grief, economic ruin, hunger, etc. When the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, I would have expected the president, even if he thought "in his gut" it was hoax, to have, at the very least, called upon all NRF Emergency Support Function #8 stakeholders to urgently review plans, update them, take inventory and practice them together, as a seamless team, to deal with a novel pathogen vice influenza. I would have expected Congress to be asking hard questions about our readiness to combat COVID-19. I would have expected to hear a single fact-based status on plan implementation - not a red or blue version. Think back. Instead of wasting their time, talent and our tax dollars on a "big, beautiful wall" and dead-on-arrival impeachment process, should our elected leaders been working to improve and practice our plan to fight the next war on a novel pathogen pandemic or another compelling threat from the NRF? If you are aggrieved, if you are infuriated at our governments' chaotic response to COVID-19, you can vote American in November and tell your elected leaders, "you're fired". "Monday morning quarterbacking" you say. Results, not excuses, matter.