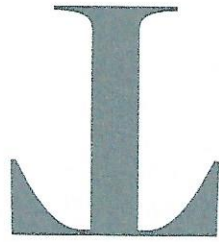


death toll – liczba ofiar śmiertelnych
surpass – przewyższać, przekraczać
fatality – ofiara śmiertelna
pale in comparison to something – bladań
to something – bladań
biednąc – w porównaniu z czymś
rage – szaleć (np. o chorobie)
staggering – zdumiewający, oszałamiający
heed international warnings – baczyć na mierzynarodowe ostrzeżenia
imprudent political rhetoric – retyryka polityczna

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BY MICHELE GOODWIN

We should reject a bright-line rule that would deprive officials of the discretion they need to balance public health and civil liberties.

Pandemic Constitutional Rights

OPINION



SEE? Protesters in Rancho Cucamonga, California, showing their displeasure with a state stay-at-home order this May

months to surpass deaths suffered by Americans over 19 years of the Vietnam War. And while the Vietnam War is long over, COVID-19 still rages in the United States.

What this staggering death toll brings to light are two interrelated matters. First, it exposes questions related to capacity, compassion and competency in American leadership—from the federal government down to local officials. The failure to heed international warnings and develop effective test kits in December and January highlights serious weaknesses in pandemic preparedness and American leadership. Hasty and imprudent political rhetoric in February and March, comparing COVID-19 to the seasonal flu, was not only inaccurate and misguided; it likely contributed to a sense of false security among Americans, who came to believe the virus was no more infectious and no greater a threat than the seasonal flu. Sadly, this view persists among some Americans, including in government.