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We're not prepared to respond

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With the anniversary of 9/11 fast approaching, it will become increasingly popular in the press and in political rhetoric to draw comparisons between these two national tragedies of epic proportion. One analogy that likely will be overlooked is the response of this country's health care professionals in the public's hour of greatest need.

I have heard reports from colleagues who attended the victims of both of these disasters, and I cannot help but feel great pride in the manner in which these brave doctors, nurses, X-ray technicians, respiratory therapists and others put their safety and well-being aside to provide for the care of those sickened and maimed in the wake of these horrific events. The people of our country often take for granted these well-trained and dedicated professionals.

The most recent catastrophe in New Orleans, however, blatantly points out that "homeland security" is only a political euphemism. We are ill prepared to provide for the safety, health and welfare of our citizens within our borders, yet we continue to spend billions on perceived threats from abroad. It's time to think about the health and welfare of our citizens and to suggest that the citizens of other countries look to their leaders for security.

- Marc J. Rosen
Glendale

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