The coronavirus outbreak has revealed how critical it is for us to find solutions to our rapidly changing world.

There have been dramatic differences in the success of various countries in fighting this virus. In South Korea, the lockdown was so strict that its citizens' normal routines, their differences, implemented essential preventive measures, and daily tasks did not allow the infection.

In contrast, lockdown and disaster in Italy led to infection in the critical first few weeks of the outbreak, resulting in thousands of lives lost. In the U.S., we have been often in capable of overcoming our differences in a common cause. Our social climate is toxic.

The merit of an issue is often not considered as important as power alliances and political, ideological or otherwise.

We can be friends and still disagree.

The ever-present media has us glued to TV sets, watching 30-second dramatic images that short-circuit our imagination, independent judgment, and polarizes us.

The discourse and debates that are focused on the issues themselves — without insulting the opponent — have been replaced.

When I came to this great country many years ago as a poor student, with only $30 and having recently survived China's Cultural Revolution, what attracted me most about America was the freedom conveyed in the saying: "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to my death your right to say it." Unfortunately, since then we have departed from the principles of free speech and mutual respect, and have instead replaced them with intolerance and intimidation. We are becoming a society that is increasingly fixated on our differences, rather than appreciating what we have in common.

Now the wake-up calls have come! When a natural disaster strikes, such as the recent tornadoes in Middle Tennessee, we find ourselves in need of the most prepared and experienced disaster response teams.

Case scenarios based on models that the coronavirus outbreak, reveals that our ability to deal with it is critically dependent on how prepared and how well we have already been through it, we are able to overcome our differences and come together as a nation.

The public vulnerability requires a sure foot to avoid alienating each other.

The ability to find common ground in a crisis is possible through years of hearing and practice. We must first learn to listen, so that instead of trying to score rhetorical points through well-rehearsed sound bites, we may learn valuable information from one another so that we may propel both sides toward breaking the gridlock which is the hallmark of our current national discourse.

A number of difficult problems will come only through collaboration, not criticism. When we work together to deal with a crisis like this, but also those that pose our society's problems in general.

For the first time in a very long time, Covid-19 has been a reminder that we have found the common ground, which is this crisis, we are all affected by, and the only way to survive is to find a way to collaborate.

It is my hope that this viral crisis, and the societal gridlock which is the hallmark of our current national discourse, will inspire all of us to make fundamental changes to overcome our differences and find common ground in our lives.

Our collective vulnerability requires a sure foot to avoid alienating each other.

The ability to find common ground in a crisis is possible through years of hearing and practice. We must first learn to listen, so that instead of trying to score rhetorical points through well-rehearsed sound bites, we may learn valuable information from one another so that we may propel both sides toward breaking the gridlock which is the hallmark of our current national discourse.

A number of difficult problems will come only through collaboration, not criticism. When we work together to deal with a crisis like this, but also those that pose our society's problems in general.

For the first time in a very long time, Covid-19 has been a reminder that we have found the common ground, which is this crisis, we are all affected by, and the only way to survive is to find a way to collaborate.

It is my hope that this viral crisis, and the societal gridlock which is the hallmark of our current national discourse, will inspire all of us to make fundamental changes to overcome our differences and find common ground in our lives.

Our collective vulnerability requires a sure foot to avoid alienating each other.

The ability to find common ground in a crisis is possible through years of hearing and practice. We must first learn to listen, so that instead of trying to score rhetorical points through well-rehearsed sound bites, we may learn valuable information from one another so that we may propel both sides toward breaking the gridlock which is the hallmark of our current national discourse.

A number of difficult problems will come only through collaboration, not criticism. When we work together to deal with a crisis like this, but also those that pose our society's problems in general.

For the first time in a very long time, Covid-19 has been a reminder that we have found the common ground, which is this crisis, we are all affected by, and the only way to survive is to find a way to collaborate.

It is my hope that this viral crisis, and the societal gridlock which is the hallmark of our current national discourse, will inspire all of us to make fundamental changes to overcome our differences and find common ground in our lives.