

Torre, is another victim of prostate cancer.

I join millions of New Yorkers—and millions of Americans—in wishing Joe Torre a continued recovery, who joins a team of almost 200,000 American men who will learn they have prostate cancer in 1999. It is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in this country. And, like other cancers, prostate cancer must be stopped. For, it will claim the lives of nearly 40,000 Americans this year. My own state, New York, has the third highest rate of diagnoses and deaths due to prostate cancer.

Unfortunately, this country invests only about one of every twenty cancer research dollars trying to stem the epidemic of prostate cancer, which accounts for about one in every six cancer cases. It is a disproportion that must be corrected, Mr. President. On behalf of Joe Torre, Bob Watson, Senator Bob Dole, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Andy Grove, Harry Belafonte—and millions of other men and their families whose lives have been affected by prostate cancer—now is the time to renew those efforts.

I am pleased that Congress established a prostate cancer research program in the Department of Defense in 1996. I supported the establishment of that program, just as I supported last year's increase in funding of the National Institutes of Health, with strong language to assure that \$175 million become dedicated to prostate cancer research in 1999.

We must continue to develop these critical research initiatives. I congratulate Senators STEVENS, INOUE and many others in the Senate for their championship of the important program at the Department of Defense, and I hope to work with you to help fully fund this program over the next three years. We must work collaboratively with NIH to accelerate their sponsorship of clinical prostate cancer research, and I look forward to reports, due next month, by the NCI and NIH directors about their five-year investment strategy for prostate cancer research. Even though this year promises some daunting budget challenges, we must not let our commitment to end the war on cancer waver.

One in six American men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. As frightening as that statistic may be for the general population, it is even more pointed in the African-American community. African-Americans have the highest rates of prostate cancer incidence and mortality in the world, with occurrences 35% higher than among Caucasians and death rates twice higher than white males.

The battle that Joe Torre faced gives testimony to the fact that prostate cancer does not affect men only in their retirement years. About 25% of cases occur in men younger than 65

years old, and, with the aging of our baby boom generation, we can fully expect both incidence and mortality to increase if the disease is unchecked.

Mr. President, I call on our membership to join with national organizations, like the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, CaP CURE, the American Cancer Society and 100 Black Men, and take action to end the toll prostate cancer takes on American men and their families.●

STRENGTHENING OUR FRONTLINES

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier this week, Senator GRAHAM of Florida and I introduced a bill to revitalize and modernize our efforts to defend U.S. borders from drug traffickers. This bill, the "Comprehensive Border Protection Act", S. 689, is part of a bipartisan effort by Congress to provide the resources for this critical effort. Its goal is to stop dangerous drugs and other contraband from reaching our streets. Last year, we took an important step in this direction with increased funding for our counter-drug efforts in the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act. As needed as that funding was, we left something undone.

One of the critical frontline agencies in our counter-drug efforts in the U.S. Customs Service. Despite the fact that trade has increased exponentially in the last several years, we have not provided the resources to expand the ability of Customs to manage this increased volume. Every year, more than the total population of the United States crosses our borders. In practice, that means more than 400 million people annually coming into our airports, across our land borders, and into our seaports. Nearly 15 million containers enter our ports. Some 125 million privately owned vehicles come into the country. That is every year. To deal with this volume, Customs has fewer than 20,000 employees and equipment that is outdated.

Most of this traffic is legal. But criminal gangs, terrorists, and drug traffickers willfully and cynically seek to hide their illegal acts in this flow. They use every means that vast resources and ruthless intent puts into their hands to commit their crimes. And they have increasingly sophisticated means to conceal their illegal activities. Short of sealing our borders to all trade and financial transactions, we must depend upon agencies like Customs to secure our borders. We must, however, do this while facilitating the flow of people and legitimate trade. It is a daunting task.

Recognizing that our borders were under intense pressure from illegal alien smuggling, the Congress increased the resources to the Immigration Service. We almost doubled that

agency's capacity. The challenge facing Customs is far greater. Yet, we have not provided the resources, the technological improvements, or the support that is needed to get the job done.

We have not given our men and women who do this job the support that the task requires. And it is a demanding and dangerous job. It's not glamorous to spend hours a day at a major U.S. port of entry watching tens of thousands of vehicles and people cross the border. It's a lonely and risky livelihood to patrol long stretches of our border. The long hours spent in undercover investigations and in analyzing reams of information go largely unnoticed. But being out of sight should not put their efforts or why they are undertaken out of mind.

That is what the legislation that we are offering today aims to do—to remind us of what we must be doing and to give the tools and support needed to do the job to those we ask to do it. I have for the passed several years urged the Administration to provide Congress with a comprehensive plan. We know that drug thugs have no respect for national sovereignty, for the rule of law, or for international borders. These criminal gangs are ruthless and shrewd. And they are flexible. We have to be flexible also.

I have repeatedly noted that we need to develop a capacity to guard our borders with flexibility and forethought. Too often we simply react. We respond to a threat in one area only to find the traffickers have switched tactics. We need a comprehensive approach and a sustainable plan. Such a plan, however, has not been forthcoming. For too long, we have been merely reactive to the initiative of traffickers, moving resources around to meet their latest tactic. We need to be anticipating their efforts and we need to be comprehensive. That is why this legislation addresses both our northern and southern borders, our ports and airports and our coastlines. We need the intelligence and investigative resources to focus our efforts. And we need that consistency of purpose and sustained effort that characterizes resolve. We cannot afford to be less committed in our purpose than drug traffickers are in theirs. We must not be any less comprehensive.

While this bill is not the whole solution to our quest for a coherent and comprehensive approach, it is an important step. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the House to join us in making this effort a reality.●

PENSION COVERAGE AND PORTABILITY ACT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, most people my age have known the heartache of having to watch their parents grow old. It is a sad day in a person's