

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 life when they see their father get his first gray hair. Or the day you notice lines in your mother's face where previously, there were none.

This aging process is made worse by the scary and very real possibility that too many people who will become senior citizens in the next several years are not at all prepared for the transition from work to retirement.

To be honest, it isn't our parents who we need to worry about so much. They survived the Depression. They know what it takes to get by during the lean years—it takes planning and saving. Putting money aside, when it might be easier to spend it in the moment.

Those are the values that our parents live by. They are the values we would do well to heed. And even better to teach those who will follow us.

We as a nation have lost our imperative to save. Personal savings rates have dropped to one-half of one percent of our Gross Domestic Product, the lowest since 1933.

Fifty-one million Americans in our nation's workforce have no pension coverage. But statistics like those don't tell the whole story. They don't do justice to the hardscrabble struggles

that real people go through every day. Struggles that involve agonizing questions like: "Should I eat today or take my medication?" or "Will I be able to heat my house this winter?"

Make no mistake, our nation's lack of saving for retirement is a tragedy in the making.

That is why I am so proud to join my colleagues in introducing this legislation.

A bill that will make it easier for Americans to put money aside, and a bill that will help move pension issues to the forefront of Americans' minds. A bill that will:

Expand coverage for small businesses because they have a harder time affording health care and retirement plans;

Enhance pension fairness for women because they fall into categories that have a harder time saving;

Increase the portability of pension plans so that when you change jobs you don't have to worry about where your savings will go;

Strengthen pension security and enforcement so you can rest easy at night, knowing your money is safe;

Reduce red tape so it's easier for employers to give their workers retirement options;

And encourage retirement education so that husbands and wives, parents and children, talk to each other—make plans for their future. And know what to expect tomorrow and down the road.

One aspect of the bill I am particularly proud of are the small business provisions. Thirty-eight million of the people in this country who do not have a pension plan work at small businesses. Eighty percent of all small business employees have no pension coverage.

In my state of Montana, more than 95 percent of our businesses are small businesses. And almost 9 out of 10 offer no pension plans. We cannot let these hard-working Americans down.

Currently, most small businesses can't afford pension plans. They would like to, but they just can't make ends meet.

Our bill makes it a smart business decision for small business owners to offer retirement plans.

I have made it my priority to work with members of the small business community, both back in Montana and nationally, to identify legislative solutions that will most readily enable small businesses to offer pension plans to their employees. While this bill does not include every recommendation we received, it does represent a collection of high-priority proposals which we believe could be supported by a bipartisan majority of Congress.

The major provisions in this bill which would help small businesses start and maintain pension plans include the following:

To help make pension plans more affordable we have included two new tax credits: one to help defray start-up costs and the other to defray the cost

of employer contributions to pension plans;

In addition, we provide for the elimination of some fees.

To address the problems the small business community has identified as a major impediment to establishing pension plans, we make significant changes in the top-heavy rules that limit employer contributions to plans.

To address concerns of our smallest businesses, who want to provide pensions but can only afford 'start-up' plans at first, we provide increases in income limits that apply to SIMPLE pension plans, along with a new, salary-reduction SIMPLE plan;

And for those employers that want to provide the security of a defined benefit plan for their employees but cannot because of the increased regulatory burden, we create a simplified defined benefit plan for small business.

These provisions are designed to address the problems of cost and complexity that are a barrier to so many small businesses. They will help small employers establish a pattern of saving for themselves and their employees.

Mr. President, I hope the Pension Coverage and Portability Act will spearhead a national debate on how to improve employer-provided pensions in this country.

This debate is essential if we are to achieve our goal of making America in the next century, not only strong as a nation, but strong as a community of individuals confident in the security of their financial futures.

This is a good, bi-partisan bill. It takes the positive steps we as a nation need to put our future in safe hands.

I am eager for the coming debate on this bill.

I hope it sparks a debate in the coffee shops and kitchen tables all across the country. Working together, and with this bill, we can turn a nation of spenders, into a nation of savers.●

NATIONAL SCHOOL VIOLENCE VICTIMS MEMORIAL DAY

● Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, school violence is a horrible, senseless tragedy that must not continue. Last year's horrific shootings in Jonesboro, AR; Pakucuh, KY; Pearl, MS; Richmond, VA; and Edinboro, PA, were meaningless acts of violence and should never have occurred. That's why I wholeheartedly support and have co-sponsored National School Violence Victims Memorial Day. This important resolution recognizes victims of school violence and encourages school administrators to conduct programs on March 24 designed to help prevent further occurrences of school violence.

Mr. President, the statistics on school violence are truly frightening. According to the National School Safety Center, there have been 225 school-associated violent deaths between July 1992 and June 1998. What is going on in our classrooms that our Nation's youth feel like the only way to resolve prob-

lems is through a gun? This resolution recognizes victims of school violence and says to our children, that there is a better way to resolve problems. By focusing community efforts on teaching students peaceful alternatives to conflict, we can equip our children to stop violent tendencies before they get out of control. This resolution is a step in the right direction and I urge my colleagues to put partisan politics aside and join me in encouraging local school districts and administrators to use their resources on violence prevention programs. All of us—teachers, administrators, parents—must work together to show our children peaceful alternatives before violence erupts in our schools again.●

ADMINISTRATION LETTER REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, at the request of the Administration, I ask unanimous consent that a letter received today from Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 1999.

Hon. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MOYNIHAN: Following up on our testimony at Tuesday's Senate Finance hearing on steel issues, we wanted to apprise you of the most recent developments in our steel policy and the effect on the steel industry. The President and the Vice President are deeply concerned about the impact on our steelworkers, communities, and companies of the recent surge in steel imports, and they are fully and actively committed to effectively addressing it. They are determined to maintain the United States' strong manufacturing base and the good jobs it provides by ensuring that our trading partners play by the rules governing international trade.

This Administration has implemented a comprehensive strategy that combines full and timely enforcement of our trade laws, expedited administrative action, and intensified engagement with major foreign steel producing nations to address unfair trade practices injuring our steel industry and its workers.

The import numbers for the past three months demonstrate clearly that our strategy is producing results. The preliminary data for February, released earlier today by the Commerce Department, show that total steel imports in February were 45 percent below November 1998 levels—and reached the second lowest monthly level since April 1996. Imports of hot-rolled steel have dropped 81 percent since November. We will work to sustain the positive trends of the past three months are sustained.

Our strategy has focused on Japan, Russia, and Korea, which together accounted for 80 percent of the surge in steel imports last year. Through strong public and private statements by the President and other senior Administration officials, we have put Japan on notice that we expect its imports to reach pre-crisis levels, or we stand ready to take appropriate action under our trade laws, including self-initiation of trade cases. We