

place. That will create a sovereign Iraqi government. When that government is created, the coalition provisional authority's work is essentially done, but it does take time. It does take patience. It does take time to rebuild the economy, to establish the security that the people of Iraq deserve.

I welcome the ambassador to the Senate tomorrow to hear of his firsthand experiences and to help paint that perspective which makes it much easier for us both to view the news and the information that is given to us so we can make appropriate policy decisions. It is vitally important that we have that complete perspective and that full view of the Iraqi situation. We will stay the course. The Iraqi people, of course, depend on us to stay the course. It will take time. It will take patience. It will take determination.

It is astounding to me that even in defeat Saddam has the power seemingly to turn the free world against itself and divert the media's attention from his monstrous crimes. For the last week and a half we have had a glossing over of the atrocities this man had committed. I appeal to my colleagues to look at the Iraqi people, at this crucial turning point in their history, and allow the Iraqis for the first time in 30 years to really taste what freedom is all about.

We talk all the time in this Chamber about helping, reaching out to help the oppressed and helping the downtrodden. Now is the time to ask: Are Iraqis in some way unworthy, are 300,000 missing people in Iraq merely a statistic? Every day our soldiers are turning up mass graves full of the bones of men, women, and children who have been hacked down literally by Saddam's men. We are beginning to see these images. We in this body have had the opportunity to talk to our Senate colleagues who have visited Iraq recently. There are literally tiny skeletons strewn in the dust alongside these once-adored little plastic baby dolls. The images are coming back to us to demonstrate the atrocities committed by Saddam Hussein.

We cannot, we should not look away. We will not look away. We know this will take time.

On the question of weapons of mass destruction, we know, and indeed we have those horrifying pictures, that Saddam used chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction against his neighbors and his own people. Last week on the floor I talked about my opportunity to visit directly in my office with Kurdish physicians, who are still practicing today, who talked about the thousands of Kurds, Saddam's own people, who were killed by the chemical weapons of Saddam Hussein. Indeed, these Kurdish physicians tell me they are still taking care of people today who suffered the morbidity of having been exposed to chemical weapons, those who were fortunate enough to survive.

Furthermore, Saddam's quest for nuclear weaponry is well known. It is in-

disputable. One only need ask the most elemental question: For what purpose were nuclear scientists on Saddam's payroll? Indeed, the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, told Fox News Sunday:

What we're concerned about with Iraq is its intention and capabilities to develop weapons of mass destruction, and the merger of that capability with terrorist groups. That is the ultimate nightmare scenario.

The nightmare is over. A bloody tyrant no longer rules in Iraq. A man who without qualm or regret murdered members of his own family and tens of thousands of his own citizens has been removed from power. The perpetrator of one of the past century's most gruesome crimes against humanity, the use of chemical weapons on thousands of innocent Kurdish civilians, is no longer free to pursue such weapons. The aggressor in the gulf war who a decade ago invaded his neighbor only to be driven out by a mighty coalition no longer threatens the volatile region of the Middle East. Iraq is no longer a playground for Saddam and his demented offspring. Iraq is finally and thankfully on the road to liberation.

Yes, it will be a bumpy road. It will take time. Even America was not built in a day. We are rebuilding, not just from the war but from 30 years of neglect. Today we should be celebrating the historic opportunity before the Iraqi people to build a democracy that respects the rule of law, that values life, that protects the God-given rights of every Iraqi citizen. We should lend them our strength and our competence as they face the difficult journey ahead. There can be no other course of action.

I believe that when all is said and done, Iraq will proudly stand among the nations of free people.

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#### FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS INJURY RESOLUTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to inform my colleagues that I have raised an objection to proceeding to S. 1125. Although I support finding a solution to the asbestos litigation crisis, there are a number of problems with this bill as currently drafted regarding the tax treatment of the asbestos fund. These problems affect the tax treatment of the amounts paid into and received from the asbestos fund. If not remedied, there could be serious adverse tax consequences to the companies, the asbestos fund, and, most importantly, the beneficiaries. These tax issues are within the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee, I believe that S. 1125 should be referred to the Finance Committee, but in the event it is not, the bill should be held from the floor until the Finance Committee can report a separate tax title for floor consideration.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the De-

partment of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. Last week, we passed a Defense appropriations bill that includes \$150 million in funding for this program. In the more than 10 years since its inception, I have worked with many of my colleagues to ensure that this groundbreaking program continues to have the strong level of support necessary to give researchers the essential resources they need to discover the keys to curing and preventing breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women. It accounts for 30 percent of all cancers in women. In the United States in 2002 alone, it is estimated that 203,500 women were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer while 40,000 women lost their lives to this disease. These women are our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends. Research toward a cure cannot bring those loved ones back to us, but we hope it will spare thousands of future tragedies and provide hope for women currently struggling with this devastating disease.

Earlier this year, as I have for the past several years, I coordinated a letter, along with Senators LEAHY and others, requesting that the Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2004 contain \$175 million in funding for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. This letter received the strong bipartisan support of 66 senators. Although budgetary constraints did not permit funding at the requested level, the fiscal year 2004 Defense appropriations bill does contain \$150 million for this program. Given the challenges of this year's budget, I am pleased that the appropriation bill contains such a strong level of support.

The research made possible by the Breast Cancer Research Program may benefit not only the victims of breast cancer but of countless other diseases as well. This program fills a unique role in offering awards that fill gaps in ongoing research and complement initiatives sponsored by other agencies. The program supports research and training awards that promote the investigation of innovative ideas and a strong workforce of scientists in this critical field. In an analysis of this program the Institute of Medicine said:

The Program fills a unique niche among public and private funding sources for cancer research. It is not duplicative of other programs and is a promising vehicle for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer.

In just over a decade since its inception, the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program already has shown great success. The flexibility of this program helps to maximize the limited resources available. I applaud the strong support of this program and want to stress that the intent of reviewing alternative funding sources is to strengthen breast cancer research efforts and not to affect funding for the current program. I am concerned about