

## *Foreword*

At the dawn of a new millennium, America paused to celebrate its remarkable achievements and quickly set out to build an even better future. Employers and entrepreneurs created another 2 million new jobs, continuing to fuel what in February became the longest economic expansion in American history. With unemployment hitting a 30-year low, wages rose across the board, inflation held steady, and we paid off a record \$133 billion in public debt.

We also worked to widen the circle of opportunity, so that all people might acquire the skills they need to prosper in our new economy. As part of our New Markets Initiative, I visited East Palo Alto, California, and the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, highlighting our efforts to spread the benefits of new technologies to hard-pressed communities. To help close the digital divide, we opened the first of 1,000 Community Technology Centers across the country, so that Americans from all walks of life might tap the power of the Internet.

In a major scientific breakthrough, researchers completed their first map of the human genome, the complex genetic blueprint of human life. This milestone holds great promise for revolutionary medical treatments, but also raises the possibility of genetic discrimination. To combat this specter, I issued an Executive Order banning the use of genetic information to discriminate against Federal employees, an important first step in our effort to protect all Americans from similar discrimination.

As part of an ongoing effort to strengthen ties between the world's oldest democracy, the United States, and its biggest, India, I traveled to South Asia. There, I urged India and Pakistan to end their nuclear arms race and resume negotiations toward a permanent peace. We also continued to push for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. And at a Moscow summit, we renewed our commitment to blocking the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and explored further steps to reduce our nuclear arsenals.

At the World Economic Summit in Switzerland, I urged leaders to help make sure that globalization benefits workers and the environment. We continued to build a global coalition for debt relief in the developing world and to fund vaccines and treatments that could eliminate the ravages of AIDS and other deadly diseases. And in Germany, I was humbled to become the first American President to receive the Charlemagne Prize, awarded for America's contributions to peace and integration in Europe.

We worked hard for peace at home, too—especially in our continuing efforts to reduce gun violence. We kept pushing the Congress to support sensible gun safety legislation and funding for more gun prosecutors—issues at the heart of the Million Mom March on Mother's Day.

Despite substantial congressional opposition, we continued to push for the passage of both a strong Patients' Bill of Rights and a Medicare prescription drug benefit that would help older Americans afford costly prescriptions.

We also worked hard to protect our natural heritage. We created new national monuments to safeguard the Grand Canyon and the Giant Sequoias of California and proposed permanent conservation funding to ensure that America's greatest natural treasures will forever endure. To combat global warming, we proposed the Clean Air Partnership Fund to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution and outlined tax incentives for developing cleaner engines and renewable energy sources. We also dedicated more funding to climate change research.