

signed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, opposed the destruction of embryos for stem cell research, and refused to spend taxpayer money on international programs that promote abortion overseas.

Ms. Gray. Thank you.

The President. My administration is challenging the Oregon law that permits physician-assisted suicide.

Ms. Gray. Thank you.

The President. We support abstinence education and crisis pregnancy programs and parental notification laws. We offer compassionate alternatives to abortion by promoting adoption and extending State health care coverage for unborn children.

My hope is that the United States Congress will pass a bill this year banning partial-birth abortion, which I will sign. Partial-birth abortion is an abhorrent procedure that offends human dignity. I also urge the Congress to ban all human cloning. We must not create life to destroy life. Human

beings are not research material to be used in a cruel and reckless experiment.

For 30 years, the March for Life has been sustained by constant prayer and abiding hope that one day, every child will be born into a family that loves that child and a nation that protects that child. And when that day arrives, you will have the gratitude of millions, especially those who know the gift of life because you cared and you kept faith. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. from the JS Logistics company in St. Louis, MO, to march participants on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In his remarks, he referred to Nellie J. Gray, president, March for Life Education and Defense Fund. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the National Economy in St. Louis, Missouri January 22, 2003

Thanks for the warm welcome—[*laughter*]*—*more inside than outside, I might add. [*Laughter*] But thank you all very much for giving me a chance to come and share some thoughts about this great land and some of the challenges that face us.

I'm particularly thrilled to be in a place where the entrepreneurial spirit is strong, and that is JS Logistics. It is strong because of the spirit of the guys who run the company, John and Greg, and the people that work with them to provide good service and product.

It's important for our fellow Americans to understand that the strength of our country, the strength of our economy really depends upon the strength of the small-business community all across America. And that's why I'm here today in this small

business, to remind people about the importance of small business.

I brought Hector Barreto, who is the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. Thank you for coming, Hector. I know there's a lot of other small-business owners here from around the State of Missouri. I'm honored you came. Thank you for lending your support to what I am going to describe today as a way to make sure people can find work in America.

I want to thank the employees of this good company for putting up with the small entourage I travel with. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the folks that came to the roundtable today. Not only were some employees of JS, but there's some folks who are running their own businesses and companies. We heard from single moms, newly married