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Report to the President on [Transforming Access to Government](#), August 31, 2000

Transmittal Letter to the President

President's Information Technology Advisory Committee

August 31, 2000

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The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC) took special note of your December 1999 executive memorandum promoting electronic government, as well as recent announcements such as the launch of the FirstGov website for one-stop access to government information and services. We share your vision to create an "Information Age" government made more efficient, effective, and accessible through information technology. In fact, our 1999 report, *Information Technology Research: Investing in Our Future*, identified the relationship between government and citizens as one of the vital areas of our national life where information technology offers the potential to dramatically transform current practices in ways that will greatly benefit all Americans.

Thus, we are pleased to enclose *Transforming Access To Government Through Information Technology*, the first in a series of follow-ups to our 1999 report. This latest report highlights our findings and recommendations on how the government can provide leadership by solving key IT technology challenges, improving public access to Federal resources as well as re-engineering and simplifying internal and external governmental transactions. Our goal is to define a program that will provide our citizens with full and easy electronic access to their government regardless of their physical location, level of computer literacy or physical abilities.

The report offers three key recommendations. First, we recommend that the Federal government, as the world's largest developer of, customer for, and user of information technology, assume a leadership role in transforming government through the enhanced use of information

technology. The Federal government must define a coordinated and aggressive IT research program which addresses long-term technology challenges, including computer security and privacy, scalable information infrastructures, and standards for data sharing and integration. Second, the Committee recommends that an Office for Electronic Government be established within the Office of Management and Budget. The mission of this new office would be to promote innovative IT efforts and policies across the Federal government. A companion Government IT Innovation Program (GITIP) should also be created to identify and fund high-risk, exploratory, and experimental IT projects. Lastly, to bridge the gap between research and operational systems, the PITAC recommends establishing pilot projects and Emerging Technology centers (ETCs) to encourage and promote information integration across the Federal government and address the most immediate IT roadblocks.

We believe that adopting these recommendations will allow our nation to make significant strides towards realizing our shared vision. The Committee looks forward to working with you and the Congress to empower American citizens by providing them with access to their government through information technology. Thank you for the continuing opportunity to advise you on these and other important issues.

Sincerely,

Raj Reddy, Ph.D.
PITAC, Co-Chair

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