

*Statement from  
chairman,  
Edward M. Kennedy*



It has been gratifying to witness the growth and development of the Office of Technology Assessment since its establishment in 1972. OTA has built a national reputation for its impartial and authoritative analysis of new developments in technology and related public policy issues. By analyzing how the latest scientific research can be applied to pressing economic, environmental, and social problems, and then suggesting policy options based on its findings, OTA performs an essential service for Congress and the country.

I commend the many men and women who have contributed to OTA'S remarkable success. They include the dedicated researchers who have contributed their expertise to hundreds of reports;

the dependable administrative and support staff who have kept OTA operations running smoothly; the program managers and division directors whose foresight has kept OTA on the cutting edge of technology; the knowledgeable and skillful officers who handle OTA'S congressional and public relations; the distinguished members of the Technology Assessment Advisory Council, who have provided wise counsel and advice; the Director Roger Herdman and his predecessors, whose gifted and energetic leadership has guided OTA toward the fulfillment of its mission.

More than ever, OTA'S work is essential to intelligent policy decisions by Congress. The nation is in the midst of extraordinary

progress in technology. New developments in telecommunications and electronic networks are ushering in an information revolution that will be as significant as the industrial revolution of a century ago. We all know the need for fundamental restructuring in the nation's social services—especially in health care, welfare, education, job training, and crime prevention. We are working to find the best means to convert our industries from the defense orientation of the Cold War years to a civilian economy today. OTA has made essential contributions in all of these areas and many others. It has conducted important studies on electronic delivery of government

services, the economic impacts of health reform, and defense conversion, to name just a few of the reports published by OTA in the past year. Studies such as these are providing Congress and the American people with indispensable tools for understanding the present and preparing for the future.

It is an honor to serve on OTA's board, and I applaud all those who have contributed so much to OTA's well-deserved success.

**Senator Kennedy**