Foreword

Based on my own experience as a policy maker in two state governments, I strongly adhere to the principle that good policy evolves from careful, thorough analysis; that all good planning is based on an assessment of the future; that formal, systematic simulations with a clear presentation of assumptions are preferred to ad hoc, implicit projections of the future; and that the evaluation of a variety of alternatives is preferred over the consideration of only one possibility. *The Burden of Support* presents a set of systematic projections, as well as a well-reasoned analysis of issues, which are critical to policy makers in determining whether the future of our society will be interdependent and productive or segmented and non-productive.

The pioneering aspects of *The Burden of Support* should be not only noted but appreciated. During my tenure as the California Secretary of Health and Welfare, I was alarmed that there were no demographic projections of the Latino population available. As a policy maker I was keenly aware of the needs for such projections. The earliest projections by the authors were presented in a widely read monograph, *The Hispanic Portfolio*, published by the California Hispanic Affairs Council. *The Burden of Support* evolved from the earlier work, with many refinements and enhancements. (The point of departure is California's demographic future.) Although there are uncertainties in any projection of the future, the basic trends are clear. The Anglo baby boomers will retire in the early part of the twenty-first century, and our work force will become far more dependent on the skills and productivity of Lati-

nos and other minorities. This book is the most comprehensive and systematic treatise on this topic available. It reflects the authors' dedication, sophistication, and commitment not only to good public policy, but to the public good.

Comprendalo bien!

Douglas X. Patino

The Burden of Support