

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Adrian Smith, Ranking Member**  
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation  
Committee on Science and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives

*Markup of NIST Cybersecurity Coordination and Awareness Act*

November 4, 2009

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this markup this morning of the *Cybersecurity Coordination and Awareness Act*. The Committee Print we are marking up makes a number of modest but important changes to NIST's information security programs and authorities.

Throughout the summer and into the fall, the subcommittee held numerous hearings in which we heard from Federal agencies and leading private sector experts regarding the current state of computer and network security efforts and how they could be improved.

These discussions made clear any successful, comprehensive effort to improve cybersecurity must include NIST. From its critical capabilities and expertise in research and standards development, to its reputation as a proven and trusted entity within the Federal government, the private sector, and internationally, NIST is well-suited to take on an expanded role in this area.

This legislation will help to do just that by authorizing new or expanded activities in three areas: (1) coordination of U.S. Government representation in international standards development forums; (2) improved dissemination of cybersecurity best practices to small businesses, state and local governments, educational institutions, and the general public; and (3) research and standards development in identity management.

Identity management is a particularly important area which warrants increased attention, especially as it relates to the security and management of personally identifiable information now a common aspect of our computer systems. To this end, I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to work with me to refine this section and incorporate language explicitly stating privacy protection—including privacy as it relates to health IT systems—should be part of NIST's identity management efforts.

Together, the provisions in this Committee Print will strengthen and clarify NIST's cybersecurity roles and responsibilities, representing a small but important step in our efforts to address cybersecurity issues.

I want to thank the Chairman for working closely with Republicans on this legislation, and I look forward to continued cooperative efforts as we move to consideration in full committee and on the floor.

I yield back.