

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



For Immediate Release
June 12, 2014

Media Contacts: Zachary Kurz
(202) 225-6371

**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on Reducing the Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research**

Chairman Bucshon: Thank you Chairman Broun. Our hearing today on Reducing the Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research brings forward an important subject for all of us; reducing burdensome red tape caused by an overly entangled bureaucratic web on the research community. Last April, I did a university tour in my state of Indiana, which is home to many premier research universities. At every school I visited, the administrative burden on researchers was of the utmost concern.

In 2012, the National Research Council produced a report, in response to a bipartisan bicameral request, highlighting ten recommendations for the future of U.S. research universities. One of the recommendations from that report was to “reduce or eliminate regulations that increase administrative costs, impede research productivity, and deflect creative energy without substantially improving the research environment.” Early in 2013, I joined the former Chair of the Research Subcommittee, my colleague Mo Brooks from Alabama, on a request to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to identify federal requirements that create burden for research universities.

To avoid duplication, GAO waited to move forward on our request due to ongoing work of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the National Science Board (NSB) and the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP). I believe now that these projects have wrapped up we can expect GAO to begin to identify and address concerns regarding both the burden and potential value of regulatory requirements. Additionally, a bill I authored, H.R. 4186, the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act, was reported favorably from the Full Committee on May 28 and included a provision requiring the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to establish a working group responsible for reviewing federal regulations surrounding research and research universities and making recommendations on ways to minimize the regulatory burden on universities.

I want to be sure we address the concern that 42 percent of a researcher’s time (according to the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)) is spent on administrative tasks which may take away from the conduct of science. But we must also ensure that we maintain processes to safeguard accountability, transparency and responsibility in handling taxpayer resources.

I am confident that we are taking thoughtful and beneficial steps toward addressing the issue of regulatory burden. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today on their experiences, concerns and suggestions to alleviate this problem while preserving accountability.