

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



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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)  
Hearing on Methamphetamine Addiction: Using Science to Explore Solutions**

**Chairman Smith:** Thank you Chairman Bucshon for holding today's hearing.

On July 31st, this subcommittee held a hearing on the frontiers of human brain research. During that hearing, our witnesses discussed many different neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, autism, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and traumatic brain injury.

However, witnesses did not have the opportunity to discuss another important disorder, namely addiction, which affects millions of Americans and their families.

Our witnesses this morning will testify about how methamphetamine addiction leads to severe medical and social consequences, and why this drug is particularly destructive to the addict.

The meth problem is an example of a clear societal need where science can yield potential solutions that will benefit the American public. Progress on this problem, like many other complex medical issues, will require an interdisciplinary approach that will inform the scientific basis of meth addiction and treatment.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will play an integral role towards a more complete understanding of this problem. Hypothesis-based data-driven social science research can be used to understand behavioral science behind addiction.

Scientists should work with health officials to develop predictive models and algorithms that could aid law enforcement. Applied mathematicians should work with neuroscientists to develop the mathematical tools necessary to build a quantitative model that could help explain the neurological factors behind addiction. These are just a couple of examples where NSF money can be effectively spent towards an important societal problem.

I look forward to the witnesses' testimony and questions and I would especially like to thank a constituent of mine, Dr. Jane Maxwell from the University of Texas, School of Social Work, for her participation this morning. And I yield back.

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