



COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**  
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)**

*Committee Markup of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Campus Security Act*

**Chairman Smith:** The next and final bill for markup today increases accountability for maintaining the security of facilities at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the safety of the NIST workforce.

I thank Chairman Loudermilk for his significant oversight work on this issue, and for introducing the result of that, H.R. 5636. Last July, a senior officer with the NIST Police Services Group attempted to manufacture methamphetamine at one of the laboratories located at NIST's Gaithersburg, Maryland, campus.

The officer, who was previously the acting Chief of Police at the campus, caused an explosion that burned his face and arm and blew out the lab windows.

It is shocking that a federal agency didn't know that a meth lab was being run on its property, right under its nose, and without the explosion, it might never have been discovered. The meth lab explosion and subsequent investigation have raised serious concerns about the safety and security of the entire NIST campus.

Further, information obtained during this Committee's investigation of the meth lab appears to show a culture of waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct at NIST Police Services.

For example, according to a recent Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General's report, the very officer who caused the explosion on NIST's campus had committed time and attendance fraud by claiming hours that he did not actually work.

So, how do we know that this is not happening throughout the Police Services Group at NIST?

These unfortunate examples undermine and jeopardize NIST's mission to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, which enhances economic security and improves our quality of life.

This legislation is an important step forward to analyze the work of NIST's Police Services Group and outside contractors to ensure that they are adequately securing both NIST campuses to protect NIST employees, contractors, visitors, and surrounding communities from any potential hazards.

This legislation and a thorough review, evaluation, and report by the Government Accountability Office will provide further recommendations and options to ensure a safe and secure NIST in the future.

I again thank Chairman Loudermilk for his work on this matter and urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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