

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



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**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on Prizes to Spur Innovation and Technology Breakthroughs**

Chairman Bucshon: I am pleased to call to order this morning's Subcommittee on Research and Technology hearing that will examine prizes funded by both the private sector and the federal government to spur innovation and technology breakthroughs.

Earlier this year, our subcommittee held a hearing about the scientific activities at the Smithsonian Institution. Curators from the Smithsonian brought the original check that was given to Charles Lindbergh for winning the Orteig Prize in 1927 when he flew non-stop from New York to Paris in his airplane "The Spirit of St. Louis." The Orteig prize -similar to the prizes we will be discussing today- was a \$25,000 prize financed by a New York hotel owner to the first aviator to make the non-stop flight from New York City to Paris. The impact of Lindbergh's flight was significant and helped spawn an interest in aviation and grow the emerging aviation industry.

Today, scientific prize challenges still play an important role in spurring innovation and the federal government and private sector are crucial to sustaining these challenges.

As a cardio thoracic surgeon, prize competitions in medical research are of particular interest to me. Rising healthcare costs are burdening to American families. One example where cost containment is crucial affects the 450,000 Americans who suffer from End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), commonly known as kidney failure. One our witnesses today, Dr. Sharon Moe who comes to us from the Indiana University School of Medicine, will discuss the effects a prize competition in kidney innovation to find cost effective alternatives to transformative dialysis might have on the disease.

Last month, I introduced H.R. 4186, the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology, or FIRST, Act. The FIRST Act contains language that will provide the guidance necessary to help make this and other potential prizes come to fruition. We must ensure federal investment is also leveraging private sector investment in prize competitions.

Our witnesses today will showcase some of the important efforts that are currently underway and we will be hearing from a major prize organizations, a prize winner, a crowd-source prize expert and a prize proposer. I hope that the work from these witnesses will inspire and produce the next Charles Lindbergh, transform fields, and develop important technological breakthroughs.

I look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses and having a productive discussion.