



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

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

Academic Research Regulatory Relief: A Review of New Recommendations

Chairman Smith: Thank you Madam Chair. And thanks to our expert witnesses for being here today.

This Committee has held many hearings on the regulatory overreach of agencies during this administration. Americans – from small business owners to scientists in the lab – want to be free from overly burdensome regulations, not tied up in more red tape.

For several years, the research community has expressed concern that time spent on administrative and reporting requirements for federal research seriously cuts into lab time. This negatively affects the science conducted under those grants.

The federal government spends about \$30 billion a year on research and development at our nation's colleges and universities. Over time, a patchwork of federal laws, regulations, rules, policies and reporting requirements have developed to manage this research. A survey of universities found that up to 25 percent of grant funding was spent on research-related regulatory compliance.

We must ensure accountability and scientific integrity when spending taxpayer dollars on research. However, there are opportunities for Congress and agencies to streamline regulations to optimize the nation's investment in research.

There are some common sense recommendations to reduce governmental hurdles for our scientists. For example, when a researcher applies for a grant at the National Science Foundation, they should be able to use the same biographical information and format they use when applying for a grant at the Department of Energy or other agencies.

If a researcher has a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA, the format for research progress reporting to both agencies should be the same.

Confusing, costly and burdensome regulations take time and money away from research. They also make it more difficult for young, new innovators to apply and compete for federal funding.

We should not lose out on developing new breakthrough ideas or new talent because of bureaucratic hurdles.

I commend Chairwoman Comstock for holding this hearing and for her previous work on tackling regulatory relief. I look forward to working with you and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle towards developing some legislative solutions.

We must continue to ensure that our nation's research investments are efficient and effective.

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