

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Joint Subcommittee Hearing  
*Reducing the Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research*

June 12, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to join you in thanking all the witnesses for being here.

This morning we are discussing how to reduce the administrative workload for researchers. As I am sure we will hear this morning, numerous reviews by esteemed organizations have found that researchers face significant administrative burdens at perhaps too high a cost to benefit ratio. That is not good.

It is clear that we must ensure full accountability for all federal funding. However, it is also clear that in order for our country to remain a leader in research, we need our researchers conducting research—not spending excessive amounts of time on paperwork.

I am interested in hearing from our witnesses about ideas for streamlining and harmonizing some of these reporting requirements to ensure that researchers are spending most of their time conducting research.

I do find it interesting though that we are holding this hearing on administrative burdens so soon after marking up the *FIRST Act*, which the National Science Board and others have pointed out would lead to significant increases in regulations and red tape.

Instead of having a genuine conversation about how we can reduce the administrative burdens on our researchers, I am concerned that the Majority wants to have it both ways. They want to pass a bill that would add significant burdens one week and then lament all of the increasing burdens on researchers the next week. That doesn't make any sense.

I hope that we can move to an honest conversation about how this Committee can help ensure that the research community has all the tools they need to be successful.

That includes fewer administrative burdens, but also includes increased and predictable research funding. Otherwise our researchers will continue to spend more and more time applying for grants and checking boxes rather than conducting research.

If we were serious about promoting U.S. science and competitiveness, this Committee would be investing in research and reducing unnecessary red tape—not providing flat funding, rewriting merit-review, and adding more bureaucratic burdens as the *FIRST Act* does.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I yield back the balance of my time.