



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Nation's Leading Public Safety Associations Urge Congress to Fully Fund Next Generation 9-1-1**

Washington, D.C.-The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition – representing 9-1-1, fire, EMS, and law enforcement professionals – has launched a grassroots advocacy campaign to urge Congress to fully fund the modernization of the nation's 9-1-1 infrastructure.

Our nation's 9-1-1 systems are over 50 years old. Today, individuals can use their personal devices to instantaneously send photos to each other and video chat with family and friends, but during emergencies these capabilities can't be used to communicate with 9-1-1. This is an unacceptable reality. 9-1-1 centers need to be equipped with modern communications technologies, and this can only be achieved by transitioning to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). Sufficient funding for NG9-1-1 will improve emergency response and save lives.

A federal study requested by Congress determined that \$10-12 billion was required to successfully deploy Next Generation 9-1-1 nationwide. In the time since this study was completed, cybersecurity threats to public safety communications have grown. To provide adequate cybersecurity and interoperability measures \$15 billion is needed.

Underfunding NG9-1-1 will create a system of "haves" and "have nots" – an inequitable landscape that puts lives at risk. Some 9-1-1 centers will achieve NG9-1-1 while others, especially those in rural areas, will not have the means to. This is a once-in-a-generation investment and attempting to achieve NG9-1-1 nationwide with less than what's required is not acceptable. When it comes to public safety, we cannot cut corners.

We cannot shortchange public safety in America by prioritizing funding for other programs. Many other funding packages for infrastructure and social programs total in the trillions of dollars. As leaders and representatives of public safety officials throughout the country, we must reject proposals that fail to ensure that NG9-1-1 will be fully implemented. There remains no more vital infrastructure than the 9-1-1 system and the public needs to know that they can use modern communications technologies to request emergency assistance when natural (e.g., extreme weather events) or manmade emergencies occur.

It is incumbent upon our nation's leadership to prioritize NG9-1-1. Congress must provide the funding needed to ensure all citizens, no matter where they live, benefit from advanced, reliable, and secure 9-1-1 service.

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