



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Committee on
Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on
Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Securing the Future of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

Dear Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), I write to express our support for the continued operation and permanent authorization of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The current sunset provision, if left in place, would allow FirstNet's statutory authority to expire in 2027. This would put at risk a communications platform that has become indispensable to modern policing and emergency response.

Since its establishment, FirstNet has played a transformative role in how law enforcement agencies operate, communicate, and coordinate across jurisdictions. It is not simply a wireless service. It is a dedicated, prioritized communications tool tailored to the unique demands of public safety. Connecticut's police departments rely on FirstNet to maintain operational readiness and ensure situational awareness in high-stress environments.

Unlike traditional commercial networks, FirstNet provides law enforcement with priority access and preemption capabilities, particularly vital during high-traffic events, natural disasters, or large-scale emergencies when commercial cellular access is otherwise unreliable. These capabilities are no longer optional conveniences. They are foundational to how we protect the public and manage critical incidents.

This public-private framework behind FirstNet leverages the knowledge and expertise of private sector specialists to deliver a resilient, secure, and technologically advanced communication network that Connecticut's emergency responders increasingly rely on.

With over 30,000 agencies and 7 million connections, we believe it is in the national interest to provide long-term stability for FirstNet. Reauthorizing the program by removing the sunset provision will allow agencies to plan ahead, invest with confidence, and continue building interoperable systems.

Equally important, the governance structure in place today, anchored by the FirstNet Board and informed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), ensures that public safety professionals have a meaningful voice in how the network is operated and improved. We urge Congress to preserve this accountability model as part of any reauthorization effort.

FirstNet is a critical communications network that supports the safety of our officers and our communities. We respectfully urge you to act to remove the sunset clause and ensure FirstNet's continued availability to first responders nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LFJ', is positioned above the printed name.

Chief Louis J. Fusaro, Jr.
President, CPCA

cc: Connecticut Congressional Delegation