

Board of Commissioners

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Andrew Knapp

February 2, 2026

TO: House Subcommittee on Communications And Technology
RE: Evaluating FirstNet: Performance, Accountability, and Reauthorization

I am writing on behalf of Hamilton County Emergency Communications to express our strong support for the FirstNet program and the reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority. We understand the House Energy & Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee has an upcoming hearing on FirstNet. Our agency relies on the FirstNet network, and we encourage you to support FirstNet Authority Reauthorization and the continued success of this critical public safety program.

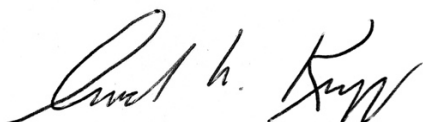
We depend on FirstNet to help our responders reliably communicate during daily operations and during emergencies. Hamilton County is fortunate to support major events and venues, including MLB and NFL operations, that draw large crowds and can stress or congest cellular networks in localized areas. When first responders deploy into these environments, they must be able to rely on high-quality cellular voice and data to maintain situational awareness, coordinate response, and mitigate risk to the public and our personnel.

In addition, when Hamilton County has needed added support during high-profile incidents, FirstNet has consistently been there with boots on the ground to provide technology and resources that directly strengthen incident operations. From Towers on Wheels (COWs) to Compact Rapid Deployable (CRD) equipment, FirstNet's personnel and capabilities have answered the call and helped ensure successful outcomes for our community.

Timely action on FirstNet reauthorization is a public safety priority. FirstNet is critical to our state and nation's emergency readiness and response, which is why I respectfully urge you to support FirstNet Authority Reauthorization and the continued success of this program.

Thank you for your continued support of first responders and the communities we serve. Please feel free to contact me if I can be a resource to your office or provide additional local public safety perspective.

Sincerely,



Andrew Knapp

Director, Hamilton County Emergency Communications