



## New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

Barbara J. Van Epps  
Executive Director

119 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210  
(518) 463-1185 [www.nycom.org](http://www.nycom.org)

July 7, 2025

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: First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Sunset Provision**

Dear Senator Cruz, Senator Cantwell, Representative Guthrie, and Representative Pallone:

On behalf of the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), I urge Congress to take timely and bipartisan action to ensure the continued operation of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) beyond its current expiration date in February 2027.

NYCOM represents 577 cities and villages across New York State. Our member communities encompass a vast range of environment from dense urban centers to suburban and rural villages, wilderness regions, maritime areas, and communities along New York's border with Canada. Each of these settings presents distinct public safety challenges, all of which require dependable wireless coverage and guaranteed priority and preemption for emergency communications.

FirstNet has become an indispensable component of public safety infrastructure across New York. Its secure, interoperable broadband network allows fire, police, EMS, and other emergency personnel to communicate reliably during major incidents, natural disasters, and daily operations. The network's unique focus on public safety, its preemption technology, and Federal government oversight, sets it apart from commercial carriers and ensures that first responders can communicate even when commercial networks are congested or unavailable.

In addition to improving emergency coordination, FirstNet has made significant investments in expanding coverage in rural and underserved areas. These efforts directly benefit many of our member municipalities that have historically struggled with connectivity issues.

With 7 million subscriptions supporting nearly 30,000 public safety agencies nationwide, FirstNet has demonstrated its enduring value. Congressional action to secure its future is essential.

I respectfully urge Congress to remove the statutory sunset clause and preserve this vital resource for America's first responders. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara Van Epps  
Executive Director  
New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM)