



New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

3177 Latta Rd., #230
Rochester, NY 14612
518 355-3371
www.nychiefs.org



President: Chief Shawn Heubusch (Batavia PD)
Executive Director: Chief (Ret.) Patrick D. Phelan
1st Vice President: Chief Paul Oliva (Mt. Pleasant PD)
2nd Vice President: Chief David Catholdi (Brighton PD)
3rd Vice President: Chief Steve Rotunno (Cicero PD)

July 8, 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 Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone:

The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (NYSACOP) is respectfully requesting Congress ensure the continuation of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) by removing the sunset date (February 2027) from the Middle-Class Tax Relief Act of 2012.

NYSACOP represents over 500 chiefs and command-level law enforcement leaders across New York's cities, towns, and villages. Our members are the most respected law enforcement officials in New York State.

Since its inception, FirstNet has provided law enforcement with a dedicated broadband platform that enhances situational awareness, improves officer safety, and supports interoperable communications across jurisdictions and disciplines. The network's features, such as priority and preemption, real-time video sharing, and advanced data applications, have become integral to modern policing.

With federal oversight and strong public safety representation through the FirstNet Authority Board and the Public Safety Advisory Committee, FirstNet remains uniquely accountable to the needs of first responders in ways commercial carriers are not.



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In New York, law enforcement agencies across all regions are leveraging FirstNet to support daily patrol operations, emergency incident response, and long-term investigations. Rural agencies, in particular, have seen gains in connectivity due to FirstNet's targeted expansion efforts in traditionally underserved areas. These improvements are helping departments bridge gaps in communications that once posed serious operational risks.

With over 7 million users across 30,000 public safety agencies nationwide, FirstNet has established itself as a critical asset to the law enforcement profession. Letting this network lapse due to an outdated sunset clause would create unnecessary risk for officers and the communities they serve.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that Congress act to remove the statutory sunset date and reauthorize FirstNet so it may continue to serve as the nation's dedicated public safety broadband network.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our nation's first responders.

Sincerely,

President Shawn Heubusch
Police Chief – City of Batavia

cc: New York Congressional Delegation