



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION
455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001
www.nnoac.com

June 30, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
The Honorable Deb Fischer
Chair, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chair Fischer, and Ranking Member Luján:

On behalf of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC), representing state and local narcotics investigators and drug enforcement professionals across the United States, we write to express our support for the reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority).

When Congress created FirstNet in 2012, it recognized that first responders required a dedicated communications capability designed around the unique demands of public safety. Congress also included a sunset date for the FirstNet Authority in 2027. As that date approaches, we respectfully urge Congress to act to ensure the continued operation and evolution of this critical component of the nation's public safety communications infrastructure.

Over the past decade, FirstNet has become a routine and expected part of public safety operations across the country. Public safety agencies remain free to choose the communications provider and services that best meet their operational needs, and many have determined that FirstNet offers coverage and capabilities that make it the right choice for their personnel and missions. Public safety personnel have integrated the network into their daily work and emergency response activities. For narcotics investigators and drug task force officers in particular, FirstNet supports operational coordination, information sharing, and communications across agencies and jurisdictions during investigations, enforcement operations, and critical incidents.

At this point, the question is no longer whether public safety needs a dedicated nationwide broadband network. FirstNet has become part of the communications infrastructure that first responders rely upon every day to carry out their missions safely and effectively. Agencies have invested in the network, incorporated it into their operations, and come to depend upon its

capabilities. Maintaining continuity and certainty for a communications capability that has become central to first responder operations should be a priority.

The creation of FirstNet stands as a significant accomplishment for Congress and the public safety community. The program is delivering on its original purpose and has become an established component of the nation's public safety communications ecosystem. It is essential that ongoing FirstNet network improvements be driven by the requirements of public safety users. Reauthorization will provide continuity and certainty for the first responder agencies that depend on the network today while allowing it to continue adapting to future operational requirements.

Thank you for your longstanding support of the men and women in drug law enforcement who do the dangerous and noble work of standing between purveyors of poison and their victims. We appreciate Congress's foresight in creating FirstNet and encourage your support for legislation to reauthorize the FirstNet Authority well in advance of its current authorization expiring in 2027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ADK' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Tony Kestner
President, NNOAC