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Tuesday, August 4, 2026

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith:

On behalf of Acadian Ambulance and the thousands of paramedics, EMTs, and emergency personnel we employ across Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, I write to urge you and the Senate to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) — and to complete that work before the Senate recesses at the end of September. Acadian Ambulance is the nation's largest 100% employee-owned ambulance service and is a division of Acadian Companies.

FirstNet is not an abstraction to us. It is the dedicated, prioritized broadband network our crews depend on every day to coordinate emergency medical response, maintain communications during hurricanes and other disasters, and stay connected when commercial networks are congested or down. When seconds decide outcomes, reliable interoperable communication is the difference between life and death for the patients and communities we serve.

The House has already done its part. On [April 20, 2026](#), it passed H.R. 7386, the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026, extending FirstNet's authority through 2037. Absent reauthorization, the FirstNet Authority is set to sunset in February 2027 — and the legislative calendar leaves a narrow window to act. Waiting until the fall or winter invites needless uncertainty for the public-safety agencies and providers who plan around this network.

I respectfully ask that you pass FirstNet reauthorization before the September recess. We join our fellow public-safety organizations in urging that any reauthorization preserve FirstNet's independent status and public-safety governance, with appropriate oversight — a structure that keeps the operational needs of those on the front lines at its core. First responders across the nation are counting on continuity, and the time to secure it is now. Acadian stands ready to be a resource to you and your staff on any aspect of public-safety communications.

Thank you for your leadership and for your steadfast support of those who answer the call.

Respectfully,

Blaise Zuschlag
EVP, Chief Administrative Officer
Acadian Companies