



September 5, 2024

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
Vice President of the United States

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor of Minnesota

Dear Vice President Harris and Governor Walz:

As the nation's leading organizations representing the dedicated professionals who respond to 9-1-1 calls every day, we write to urge your campaign to press for passage of critical federal funding legislation to upgrade our nation's emergency response infrastructure to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). This issue touches at the core of the safety and security of all Americans.

Public expectations far exceed the capabilities of today's 9-1-1 networks. Despite being the most critical of critical infrastructure, 9-1-1 systems are largely based on 50+ year old technology. A member of the public needing emergency assistance is often limited to voice calls and some basic text and cannot share images, video, or other data that would provide real-time actionable information to emergency responders. Further, today's outdated 9-1-1 systems cannot seamlessly exchange information with each other and are susceptible to outages, cyberattacks, and other vulnerabilities that have adversely impacted the public's ability to contact 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Last year, we welcomed inclusion of our broadly supported legislation to fully fund the implementation of NG9-1-1 nationwide in a comprehensive, interoperable, multi-media capable, innovative, secure, and resilient manner as part of the Spectrum Auction Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3565) that included \$15 billion in federal funding. We were pleased to have strong bipartisan support for the bill, including a unanimous vote in the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Enactment of NG9-1-1 funding legislation will provide the more than 100,000 9-1-1 professionals across the country with improved situational awareness, resulting in a faster and more efficient response for the members of the public they protect. NG9-1-1 will begin saving lives the moment it is implemented.

Achieving NG9-1-1 is also a national security imperative, as it will lead to enhanced response to natural and man-made disasters, protection against cyberattacks including state-sponsored attacks, and support for homeland defense efforts in the event of a national emergency.

We respectfully ask that you make full funding of NG9-1-1 via any legislative vehicle a central tenet of your campaign platform to ensure our nation's 9-1-1 professionals have the modern tools and resources they need to perform their lifesaving work.

Respectfully,

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