

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

As co-chairs of the Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus, we respectfully urge you to bring **S.725, the Enhancing First Response Act**, to the House floor for consideration under suspension of the rules.

S.725 was unanimously passed by the Senate on September 10, 2025. If enacted, the legislation would strengthen our nation's 911 system, from reducing outages to improving emergency communications during severe weather. We support the entirety of the legislation but would like to highlight the importance of one provision, the 911 Saves Act, which would require the Office of Management and Budget to reclassify 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers as "Protective Service Occupations." Currently, 9-1-1 professionals are classified as "Office and Administrative Support Occupations," an outdated and misinformed view of their life-saving responsibilities. In doing so, it would better align federal policy with the realities of modern emergency response and support recruitment, retention, and workforce well-being in 9-1-1 centers nationwide.

The work of 9-1-1 professionals has changed significantly since the first 9-1-1 call was made on February 16, 1968, in Haleyville, Alabama. Initially, working in 9-1-1 was mainly clerical — handling call intake and dispatching. It has since grown into a profession in which highly trained individuals perform a wide range of specialized, skilled tasks. Telecommunicators are trained to listen for cues in a caller's tone of voice and background noise that might indicate the situation is not as it seems. They then analyze this information to provide context and situational awareness for field responders, including police, fire, and emergency medical teams, who handle everything from active shooter incidents to car crashes and home invasions. Because the information they relay can significantly influence the outcome of a response, these professionals are highly skilled and trained to work under stressful, mentally demanding conditions.

Despite the critical nature of their work, these professionals have historically been misclassified in federal workforce systems as "clerical/administrative," failing to reflect the true scope and importance of their responsibilities.

Importantly, S.725 enjoys broad bipartisan support. The bill passed the United States Senate unanimously and has garnered strong backing from Members of both parties and stakeholders representing emergency communications professionals, public safety organizations, and communities across the country.

At a time when Americans increasingly rely on resilient, responsive emergency communications systems, advancing this legislation would send a clear, unified message: Congress recognizes and values the indispensable contributions of 9-1-1 professionals.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you bring S.725 to the House floor under suspension of the rules at the earliest opportunity. Doing so would allow the House to act swiftly on this widely supported measure and deliver long-overdue recognition to our nation's *first* first responders who answer the call in moments of crisis.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on issues critical to public safety.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kat Cammack in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Kat Cammack
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Norma J. Torres in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress