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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOHMERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Kari’s Law Act of
5 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYS-**
2 **TEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications
4 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 721. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE**
7 **SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.**

8 “(a) SYSTEM MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE,
9 AND LEASE.—A person engaged in the business of manu-
10 facturing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line tele-
11 phone systems may not manufacture or import for use in
12 the United States, or sell or lease or offer to sell or lease
13 in the United States, a multi-line telephone system, unless
14 such system is pre-configured such that, when properly in-
15 stalled in accordance with subsection (b), a user may di-
16 rectly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station equipped
17 with dialing facilities, without dialing any additional digit,
18 code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-access code
19 such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether the user is re-
20 quired to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for
21 other calls.

22 “(b) SYSTEM INSTALLATION, MANAGEMENT, AND
23 OPERATION.—A person engaged in the business of install-
24 ing, managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems
25 may not install, manage, or operate for use in the United
26 States such a system, unless such system is configured

1 such that a user may directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 from
2 any station equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing
3 any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any
4 trunk-access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of
5 whether the user is required to dial such a digit, code,
6 prefix, or post-fix for other calls.

7 “(c) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—A person engaged in
8 the business of installing, managing, or operating multi-
9 line telephone systems shall, in installing, managing, or
10 operating such a system for use in the United States, con-
11 figure the system to provide a notification to a central lo-
12 cation at the facility where the system is installed or to
13 another person or organization regardless of location, if
14 the system is able to be configured to provide the notifica-
15 tion without an improvement to the hardware or software
16 of the system.

17 “(d) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion is intended to alter the authority of State commis-
19 sions or other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over
20 emergency communications, if the exercise of such author-
21 ity is not inconsistent with this Act.

22 “(e) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced
23 under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the
24 extent that such section provides for the punishment of
25 a fine.

1 “(f) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEFINED.—
2 In this section, the term ‘multi-line telephone system’ has
3 the meaning given such term in section 6502 of the Middle
4 Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.
5 1471).”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
8 graph (2), section 721 of the Communications Act
9 of 1934, as added by subsection (a) of this section,
10 shall apply beginning on the date that is 2 years
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 (2) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) or (c) of such
13 section 721 shall not apply to a multi-line telephone
14 system that was installed before the date that is 2
15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act if
16 such system is not able to be configured to meet the
17 requirement of such subsection (b) or (c), respec-
18 tively, without an improvement to the hardware or
19 software of the system.