

Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Legislative Improvements to Public Safety Communications in the United States”

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 10:15 AM

Thank you, Chairman Hudson, for bringing us together for this important hearing and thank you to the witnesses for your participation. Today, we are considering several critical pieces of legislation to improve public safety communications in the United States. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about how these bills will improve public safety and help our nation’s first responders better serve those in crisis.

In September, this subcommittee held a hearing to examine the broad state of public safety communications in the United States. We heard directly from first responders, emergency management officials, and public safety industry leaders about the technologies they utilize, their effectiveness, and where improvements are needed. The message was clear: reliability is non-negotiable. Regardless of the technology or service provider, first responders need certainty that their equipment will perform in the heat of a crisis.

As I've mentioned before, my home state of Kentucky has faced significant flooding and tornadoes this year, similar to what my district experienced just a few years ago. I have seen firsthand how reliable access to communications infrastructure is critical for our first responders and communities during emergencies.

Before us we have several bipartisan legislative solutions to strengthen our public safety and ensure our first responders have the tools they need to do their jobs. These bills will make important improvements to Next Generation 911 technology deployment, wireless, emergency alerting, outage reporting, and more.

Thank you again to the witnesses for your participation and I look forward to hearing from you.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.