

**Opening Statement for Chairman Richard Hudson
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Public Safety Communications Markup
Thursday, January 15th, 2025, at 9 AM**

Introduction

Good morning, and welcome to today's subcommittee markup on public safety communications in the United States. We are considering several bipartisan bills that will improve public safety and communications for first responders in the United States.

In December, we held a hearing to look at legislative improvements to public safety communications. This markup will be the next step in advancing the important legislation before us.

Important things like upgrading our 911 call centers, improvements to our wireless emergency alerting, and improvements to our outage reporting are crucial improvements that we now can look at through a legislative lens.

Alongside my friend Representative Carter from Louisiana, I recently introduced the Next Generation 911 Act. This legislation would establish a grant program at the National Telecommunications and

Information Administration, or NTIA, for Next Generation 911 technology. It would also establish a nationwide Next Generation 911 Cybersecurity Center and a Next Generation 911 Advisory Board.

Upgrading our nation's call centers to NG911 technology is crucial for public safety. This internet protocol-based system will open the door for advanced tools for both the public and our first responders to use.

This legislation will also enable deployment nationwide. A patchwork of call centers that still have aging, outdated legacy systems risks a communications landscape that is uneven and non-interoperable. I have been a long-time supporter of NG911 deployment nationwide and I am proud to lead this legislation to make it happen.

I do want to note that while we are taking steps to advance this legislation towards law, we are still working on finding an appropriate dollar amount to fund this grant program. It is critical we balance the need to fund this important program while making sure we maintain fiscal responsibility.

This markup also includes many of my colleagues' bipartisan bills to ensure alerts for natural disasters and potential risks are received in a

timely manner. I'm glad to see our subcommittee prioritizing safety and communications for all Americans.

Conclusion

Our public safety and law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to help us in our times of need, and we must make sure they have the best tools to do their jobs and best serve all Americans.

I want to thank my colleagues for their continued commitment to this issue and for their work developing these proposals. I look forward to moving these bills through committee and onto the floor so we can deliver results for the American people.

I now yield five minutes to my colleague, Ranking Member Matsui, for her opening statement.