



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE 911 ADMINISTRATORS

May 23, 2023

Dear Communication and Technology Subcommittee Chair and Subcommittee Members,

The National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) wants to thank Representatives Hudson and Eshoo for their ongoing efforts to provide funding for Next Generation (NG911) through HR 1784. NASNA continues to support this effort and remains focused on updating our nation's 911 system based on the NENA i3 standards-based system architecture. Since the first 911 call was made in 1968, the nation's 911 system has been deployed, managed, and maintained at the state and local level.

Who NASNA is.

The National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) are the states' leadership of 911 across the country. NASNA's 49 member-states represent our states on the public policy issues impacting the successful implementation of 911 systems. We are experienced, knowledgeable, and respected leaders in the 911 field. We are not lobbyists. We are the people responsible to design, implement, and manage Next Generation 911 (NG911) across the country. As part of that work, our role is to inform and educate the public and policy makers on sound processes to support the lifesaving progress of 911 services.

911 is NASNA's singular focus.

NASNA was founded in 1994 to be the voice of the states on public policy issues impacting 911. Together, state 911 leaders provide their expertise to assist each other and professionals at all levels of government. We address complex issues surrounding the evolution of emergency communications. Every member of our association is considered a subject matter expert in the 911 field. We are resourceful and adept at navigating the technical, regulatory, and policy landscapes required to move NG911 forward. We pride ourselves on the collective work we have done thus far, and the work we are doing now and for the future. The NASNA member states are making great strides in planning, building, and maintaining effective NG911 systems across the country even though that task is difficult in the face of limited resources, political challenges, and increased public expectations of 911 services.

NASNA's immediate concerns.

NASNA would like to voice strong and urgent concerns about two bills coming before the subcommittee. The first is HR 6768, the FirstNet Reauthorization. Recent reports from the Inspector General and feedback from individual states suggest that additional information and oversight from Congress should be considered before permanently establishing FirstNet.

The second, and equally concerning to NASNA, is the draft bill known as *NTIA OPSC* (included below), which expands NTIA's authorization. The proposed language would establish NTIA as the sole entity responsible for public safety communications and 911 nationwide. The bill does not properly recognize the role that state and local agencies have in designing, deploying, and

maintaining public safety communications and 911 systems. Furthermore, the proposed language does not recognize the authority that other federal agencies like DHS, NHSTA, DoD, FCC, and DISA have related to public safety communications and 911. The involvement and partnership of these agencies has been instrumental in the success and progress of 911. We have significant concerns that a sea-change to federal oversight by a sole entity will hamper the longstanding responsibility and operations of state and local public safety communications systems, including 911.

NASNA urges that efforts are made to retain state and local control of these critical communication systems.

Respectfully Submitted
On behalf of the NASNA Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harriet Rennie-Brown".

Harriet Rennie-Brown
Executive Director, NASNA

Enc: NTIA OPSC Discussion Draft