

Statement for the Record of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
H.R. 1784, the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act*
House Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
May 23, 2023

9-1-1 is a lifeline for Americans in their greatest hour of need. In an emergency, few things are more important than these three numbers when it comes to getting help. And it can often be the difference between life and death. After the horrific attacks on September 11, 2001, I co-founded the E-911 Caucus with Representative John Shimkus and Senators Hillary Clinton and Conrad Burns to support first responders and the public safety community by moving our nation's 9-1-1 services into the 21st Century. Unfortunately, we have not reached our goal and most of the United States' 9-1-1 call centers continue to use legacy technology developed over 50 years ago. The *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act* will create a grant program to help state and local governments deploy NG911 systems across the U.S.

Next Generation 9-1-1 will harness the power of 21st Century technology to respond to 21st century emergencies. It will allow our 9-1-1 emergency communication centers to receive real-time location information, text messages, photos, and video from individuals at the scene of an emergency, and to share that information with first responders. It will also make our emergency communication centers more secure, resilient, interoperable, and reliable.

The benefits of this technology will help save lives. If someone breaks into your home and you're hiding from the intruder, you won't need to call 9-1-1 to speak to an operator. You can text 9-1-1 to summon help while you continue to hide. You will be able to send pictures or live stream video from the scene of a car accident or a home fire to help first responders better respond to the emergency.

I'm pleased it has the support of a broad coalition of law enforcement and public safety organizations, including the Major County Sheriffs of America; the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the National Sheriffs' Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association; the National Association of State EMS Officials; the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials; the National Association of State 911 Administrators; and the National Emergency Number Association.

I thank Rep. Richard Hudson, my co-chair of the NG911 Caucus for working with me on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.