

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-232
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-204
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-221
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jefferies:

We are writing to express our strong support for the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act (H.R. 3413; S. 1669). As firefighters, law enforcement officers, and representatives of the emergency medical service, we understand the critical importance of reliable communication channels, particularly during emergencies and crises.

AM radio has long served as a dependable means of communication, especially in situations where other forms of communication may be compromised. Whether it's a natural disaster, a severe accident, or a public safety threat, AM radio provides a lifeline for disseminating crucial information to the public and coordinating our emergency response efforts.

By ensuring the inclusion of AM radio receivers in all new vehicles, this legislation ensures that drivers and passengers have access to vital emergency broadcasts, including areas with limited or disrupted cellular or internet connectivity. Through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, or IPAWS, AM radio is one of the broadcast methods relied upon after a hurricane when cell service is unreliable. AM radio repeatedly proves a very reliable source of providing information to the community in times where other forms of communication may have been impacted.

Moreover, AM radio remains a reliable source of information for communities in rural and remote areas, where access to other communication technologies may be limited. Rural states with limited broadband or FM and satellite radio coverage rely on AM radio as an integral part of their Emergency Alert State Relay Network, a component of IPAWS. This allows officials to convey instructions for evacuations, sheltering, or shelter-in-place as well as provide regular updates and announce "all-clear" messaging. Passage of the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act will ensure that this critical communication infrastructure remains universally accessible to all, regardless of geographical location or socioeconomic status.

We urge you to join us in advocating for this important legislation and to ensure its swift passage. Together, we can enhance public safety, improve emergency preparedness, and save lives.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Association of Fire Fighters
Major County Sheriffs of America
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Sheriffs' Association

cc:

The Honorable Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
The Honorable Ted Cruz, Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
The Honorable Gary Peters, Chair, Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
The Honorable Rand Paul, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
The Honorable Mark Green, Chair, Committee on Homeland Security
The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security
The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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