



## Statement of the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition on the Spectrum and National Security Act of 2024

April 30, 2024

The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition remains committed to securing much-needed funding to modernize the nation's 9-1-1 systems through any legislative vehicle. We have reviewed the Spectrum and National Security Act of 2024, which includes the language to create an NG9-1-1 grant program that our Coalition developed with House and Senate offices in a bipartisan manner. While we appreciate that NG9-1-1 is included among the programs funded by this legislation, we are concerned that the amount designated falls far below what's needed.

The sponsor of this bill, Senator Cantwell, has been a much-appreciated ally in pressing to take advantage of spectrum auction revenue to fund NG9-1-1. In the last Congress, a bipartisan and bicameral bill that would have provided billions more for NG9-1-1 came close to passage. More recently, in this Congress, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce voted unanimously on a spectrum bill that would fully fund NG9-1-1 in the amount of \$15B.

We recognize that there are several priorities that lawmakers are seeking to achieve with spectrum auction proceeds. However, as representatives of fire/rescue, emergency medical, law enforcement, and 9-1-1 professionals across the country, we know that modernizing the nation's 50+ year old 9-1-1 networks is a national security priority. NG9-1-1 will begin saving lives the day it is implemented.

Every day that passes without a full upgrade across all areas of the country, rural and urban, to advanced, innovative, interoperable, reliable, and secure 9-1-1 emergency response networks leaves our communities and our first responders at risk. Without adequately funding a federal NG9-1-1 grant program, the nation will end up with have and have-not communities, systems will be exposed to avoidable cyber threats, and we won't achieve the reliability, interoperability, and modern capabilities NG9-1-1 will provide.

Accordingly, we call on Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and the full membership of the Senate Commerce Committee to advance legislation that provides the funding needed for NG9-1-1 to ensure the safety of all Americans.