



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501

(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515

www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

September 30, 2026

MICHAEL McHALE

President

*Florida Police Benevolent
Association*

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President

*Police Benevolent
Association of New York City*

CRAIG LALLY

Recording Secretary

*Los Angeles Police
Protective League*

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer

*Massachusetts Coalition
of Police*

DARRELL KRIPLEAN

Sergeant-at-Arms

*Phoenix Law Enforcement
Association*

SCOTT LEETON

Executive Secretary

*Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas*

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,

Associate Members

*Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association*

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian

*Wisconsin Professional Police
Association*

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and
General Counsel

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing approximately 250,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the United States, I am writing to advise you our strong support for the reauthorization of the First Responder Network (FirstNet) Authority and to urge the Committee to act on reauthorizing this vital network as soon as practicable.

FirstNet is a nationwide broadband network dedicated to emergency responders and the public safety community. It arose out of the experiences of first responders on September 11, 2001, who struggled to communicate with one another as they responded to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centers. NAPO was instrumental in the creation of the FirstNet Authority in 2012, working with Congress to create a single nationwide network that allows all public safety agencies to communicate with one another. The authorization for this vital public safety network is set to expire in February 2027.

The Government Accountability Office emphasized in its February 2022 report that Congressional failure to reauthorize the Authority in time would place network operations and improvements at risk and could result in public safety losing access to this communications system. It is essential that the Authority is reauthorized prior to its 2027 sunset date and maintains its ability to provide preemption services for public safety – a priority for NAPO as it enables public safety officers on FirstNet to communicate and coordinate during emergencies, large events, or other situations where commercial networks can become congested.

We respectfully urge the Committee take prompt action to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority and ensure our nation's first responders continue to have the reliable and interoperable communications network they need to protect the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director

Cc: Members, Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives