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All State Senators and Representatives,

On behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, I am writing to encourage your support of the House and Senate bills that will be submitted in the 2019 Legislative Session, amending the Kansas 9-1-1 Act. We believe that the proposed changes contained in those bills will improve 9-1-1 service for all residents of the State of Kansas.

One of the major changes proposed in the bills is an increase of the 9-1-1 user fee from the current \$.60 per device to \$1.03. While this may seem to be a large percent increase, it is only \$5.16 per year which is a small price to ensure that 9-1-1 service maximizes the protection of life and property for every individual living, working and visiting our state.

Every PSAP in Kansas is faced with increasing call volume and advancing technology. The current funding mechanism is not sufficient enough to support 911 capital expenditures and ongoing daily operating expense of the 911 centers. Kansas 911 networks and 911 emergency communication systems must continue to be improved to meet growing citizen expectations that they can contact 911 with the technologies that they use every day. Much study has occurred nationally by federal agencies, carriers and public safety communications associations to identify Next Generation 911 (NG911) system technologies and technical standards. The cost to continue modernizing our 911 systems in Kansas and to pay ongoing operating and maintenance costs will require additional funding to sustain our operations.

The continuation of sufficient 911 revenue levels will be essential to maintaining and to upgrading enhanced 911 systems and dispatch center equipment to meet emerging needs.

Please support the proposed changes to the Kansas 911 Act to ensure that the residents of Kansas continue to have the best 9-1-1 service possible and Kansas can continue to be a model to other states. Please contact me with any additional questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Ellen Wernicke

President, Kansas Chapter Association of Public Safety Communications Officials