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**Leading Public Safety Associations Thank Senators Amy Klobuchar and Catherine Cortez Masto for Introducing Next Generation 9-1-1 Legislation**

Washington, D.C.- The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition thanks Senators Amy Klobuchar and Catherine Cortez Masto for introducing legislation on September 15 that would create a \$10 billion federal grant program to upgrade our Nation’s 911 Centers. The bill is identical to legislation approved on the same day by the House Energy and Commerce Committee to be included as part of the Build Back Better Act. An investment of federal resources in this critical public safety infrastructure will help ensure communities across our country can upgrade to secure, resilient, interoperable and reliable systems to receive and respond to requests for emergency assistance.

Coalition Leader Captain Mel Maier said “I am deeply appreciative for the leadership of Senator Amy Klobuchar and her unending efforts to improve 9-1-1 technologies. Today, I am thankful and encouraged to see Senator Klobuchar and Senator Cortez Masto introduce the Senate companion to the Next Generation 9-1-1 legislation included in the Build Back Better Act. With this introduction, the United States Congress has recognized the vital role of the Federal Government in supporting state and local first responders and public safety communication officials and brings us closer to delivering a historic investment in critical public safety infrastructure that will improve emergency responses and outcomes.”

“The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) thanks Sen. Klobuchar and Sen. Cortez Masto for introducing this vital piece of legislation,” noted Executive Director Laura Cooper. “The resources in this bill will help communities across the country upgrade their current 9-1-1 systems to next generation systems. This nationwide NG 9-1-1 upgrade will further enhance effective public safety communications that are essential to the safety and security of first responders and the public we serve. As a leader of the NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus, Sen. Klobuchar has been instrumental in this space for many years, and the MCCA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the Senator and her staff to advance this critical piece of legislation.”

Derek Poarch, Executive Director and CEO, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO) said “Senator Klobuchar has been a stalwart advocate for 9-1-1, including in her longstanding role as Co-Chair of the NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus. We appreciate the Senator’s continued

leadership by introducing an NG9-1-1 funding bill, along with Senator Cortez Masto, as a companion to the House legislation. Having Senator Klobuchar by our side will be key to securing the funding needed to achieve NG9-1-1 across the country in an interoperable and secure manner.”

Chief Kenneth Stuebing, President and Chairman of the Board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs said “I thank Senators Klobuchar and Cortez Masto for introducing this important Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) legislation. The funding in this legislation will facilitate a much-needed nationwide upgrade of 9-1-1 infrastructure to NG 9-1-1. NG 9-1-1 will allow the public to send information including text, video, and location information when calling 9-1-1. This will give members of the fire and emergency medical services a much clearer picture of what they are responding to before they arrive on scene, substantially reducing response time and improving response efficiency.”

“I thank Senator Klobuchar for introducing this important Next Generation 9-1-1 legislation. NG 9-1-1 will allow the public to send information including text, video, and location information when calling 9-1-1. This information will help fire and EMS departments provide better service to their communities,” said Chief Don Lombardi, President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Chief of the West Metro Fire Rescue Department.

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