

OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE ANNA G. ESHOO (CA-16)

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Reps. Eshoo, Hudson Introduce Bill to Modernize Nation's Aging 9-1-1 Systems

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Reps. Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) and Richard Hudson (R-NC) introduced the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2023* to accelerate federal efforts to modernize the nation's aging 9-1-1 systems.

“Communications have changed dramatically since the first 9-1-1 call was placed over fifty years ago, but emergency call centers have not kept pace with these innovations,” **Rep. Eshoo said**. “Over 85 percent of Americans now own a smartphone, and our 9-1-1 call centers aren't equipped with the most up-to-date technology to respond to text messages or images from smartphones. Our bill provides much needed funding for states and local communities to bring their 9-1-1 infrastructure into the 21st Century, helping first responders and public safety officials save lives.”

“Modernizing our 9-1-1 infrastructure will make you safer and help first responders on the front lines,” **said Rep. Hudson**. “Next Generation 9-1-1 will begin saving lives in our communities the moment it is deployed, which is why I am proud to lead this bipartisan legislation.”

The *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act* authorizes \$15 billion in federal funding to help state and local governments deploy Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 systems across the country. The upgrades are urgently needed to help move the country's legacy 9-1-1 call centers into the digital age, enabling them to handle text messages, pictures, videos, and other information sent by smartphones, tablets, and other devices in an emergency.

“Next Generation 9-1-1 systems are critical to the safety and security of our citizens, our communities, and our nation,” **said George Kelemen, Executive Director, Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies**. “We appreciate the leadership of Congressman Hudson and Congresswoman Eshoo in working to make nationwide implementation of NG 9-1-1 a national priority.”

“Representatives Hudson and Eshoo have been stalwart advocates for Next Generation 9-1-1, in their roles as co-chairs of the NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus and members of the Energy and Commerce Committee,” **said Mel Maier, the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition Spokesman**. “On behalf of the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition, composed of the nation's leading law enforcement, fire, EMS, and public safety communications associations, we thank them for their introduction of the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2023*. We sincerely appreciate their continued leadership to ensure that NG 9-1-1 is fully funded as soon as possible.”

“With more and more Americans using smartphones as their primary phones, it's time for our 9-1-1 call centers to adapt and be able to respond to incoming text messages, images, or videos,” **said Rosa Ramos, President, California Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association**. “We thank Reps.

Eshoo and Hudson for introducing the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2023 to ensure states and local communities have the funding to help first responders and bring their emergency communications infrastructure into the 21st century.”

Rep. Eshoo has been a longtime supporter of modernizing 9-1-1 systems. She previously introduced the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act* in 2019, and since 2003 she has been a Co-Chair of the NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus to educate lawmakers, constituents, and communities about the importance of citizen-activated emergency response systems.

The full bill text is available [here](#).

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