



National Association of State EMS Officials

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAIRMAN ROCKEFELLER LEADS ON PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND

Early Introduction of the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act (S.28) Heralds Public Safety Broadband As A Top Priority

January 25, 2011, Falls Church, Va. – The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) today joins with the Public Safety Alliance in recognizing Senator Jay Rockefeller, IV (D – WV), Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, for his reintroduction of *The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2011 (S. 28)* to build an effective, nationwide, interoperable broadband communications system for public safety. NASEMSO urges all Members of the United States Congress to support public safety and the public's safety by co-sponsoring this legislation and a companion bill expected to be reintroduced in the House by Representative Peter King (R- NY).

NASEMSO President Randy Kuykendall said "The allocation of the D-Block spectrum and funding to public safety is critical to building a nationwide wireless broadband network that provides the capacity needed to transmit mission critical real-time high-resolution video, voice and data. Unless Congress passes legislation this year to allocate the D-Block spectrum to public safety and provide funding to build out the system, we fear that the FCC will simply auction the spectrum to the highest bidder."

The Public Safety and Wireless Innovation Act of 2011, is a reintroduction of a bipartisan effort that begins to deliver the baseline foundation – sufficient radio spectrum and federal funding – so that our nation can finally realize a nationwide, interoperable and mission-critical grade public safety broadband network. Working with Chairman Rockefeller, Chairman Lieberman, Chairman King, former Chairman McCain, and many other leaders on both sides of the aisle in both Houses of Congress, we will continue to advocate for swift consideration and enactment of this long overdue action. We look forward to a productive and successful dialogue during the next several months in the course of the hearings and legislative mark ups that are expected.

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About NASEMSO and the Public Safety Alliance

NASEMSO is the key EMS leadership organization representing those who plan, implement and lead statewide systems of emergency medical care. Visit www.nasemso.org .

The Public Safety Alliance is a partnership with the nation's leading public safety associations, which includes the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the National Emergency Management Association and the National Association of EMS Officials. The partnership is operated as a program of APCO International. For more information, visit <http://psafirst.org>.