



National Association of State EMS Officials

201 Park Washington Court Falls Church, VA 22046-4527 www.nasemso.org
703-538-1799 fax 703-241-5603 info@nasemso.org

For Immediate Release

For more information: Kevin McGinnis, NASEMSO Communications Technology Advisor,
207-512-0975; mcginnis@nasemso.org

NASEMSO WARNS NATIONAL EMS COMMUNITY OF 4G COALITION'S EFFORT TO RE-BRAND ITSELF AS "PUBLIC SAFETY"

December 13, 2010, Falls Church, Va. – The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO), following a news conference today by the 4G Coalition in Washington, warned EMS agencies and associations nationwide of this attempt by a group of wireless service companies to wrest away from public safety the 700 MHz "D Block" of wireless broadband spectrum. This same spectrum is sought by public safety to create a nationwide public safety broadband network. Renaming itself "Connect Public Safety Now", the 4G Coalition would have that spectrum sold to the highest bidders for commercial wireless use.

The 4G Coalition is made up of Sprint-Nextel, T-Mobile, MetroPCS, and other wireless service providers who seek an opportunity to buy more 700 MHz broadband spectrum with which to compete for clients. Therefore, they are encouraging Congress and the FCC to open the D Block for a "sale-to-the-highest-bidder" auction of that space instead of allocating it for public safety use as is overwhelmingly desired by the national public safety community. Nationally, EMS needs this spectrum to be able to implement new, life-saving technologies.

"This is a classic corporate 'wolf in sheep's clothing' attempt by the 4G Coalition to line its members' pockets at the expense of public safety and the public that it serves." said NASEMSO President Randy Kuykendall, state EMS director in Colorado. He continued by saying that **"Nobody should be misled by this group's attempt to make it look like public safety wants the D Block auctioned. No EMS professionals, agencies, hospitals, or associations should even consider aligning with the 4G Coalition as "Connect Public Safety Now" or any other incarnation."**

Paul Patrick, Utah's State EMS Director and NASEMSO Communications Committee Chair, emphasizes **"We are making great headway in Congress and the White House** in not only getting the D Block allocated to EMS and the rest of public safety, but in securing funding to build out the nationwide public safety broadband network. We still seek co-sponsors for bills in Congress, but the momentum is excellent."

The national public safety community's effort is led by the Public Safety Alliance, to which NASEMSO belongs, whose website is <http://www.psafirst.org/>.

###

About NASEMSO

The National Association of State EMS Officials is the national EMS leadership organization whose members are responsible for overseeing, planning and coordinating the EMS systems in their states. These include state EMS directors, medical directors, trauma system coordinators and other key leadership officials.