

STATE OF KANSAS



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**Testimony in support of Senate Bill 420  
To the Senate Utilities Committee  
February 28, 2018**

Chairman Olson, Vice-chair Petersen, Ranking member Hawk Utilities Committee Members:

I want to thank the Chair of the Senate Utilities Committee for holding this hearing today on SB 420, amending the Kansas 911 Act. The Act was signed May 18, 2011; I have served as a legislative member of the 911 Coordinating Council (Council) since it was formed. Funds are distributed to each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) office with a minimum of \$50,000 distributed to each county.

The Next-Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) Project started in November of 2013; by 2014 a pilot study was completed, the statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) enhancement project launched, a data model and toolbox developed, and a request for proposals for statewide imagery sent out. It soon became apparent that it would be very expensive for every PSAP to manage its own software and equipment so the coordinating council developed a “hosted” solution that allowed PSAPs to buy in to a statewide program if that was a good solution for them. The first Kansas PSAP was cut over to the Hosted Solution, August 26, 2015; by the end of that year eleven PSAPs were live on the system. The number has increased each year with 47 live in 2016 and 77 live in 2017. To date, there are 79 PSAPs on the hosted solution.

A lot of work has gone into making “Text-to-911” possible; Kansas is a leader in this effort. Thanks goes to the legislature for the 911 Act that made this work and investment possible. However, the current statute does not recognize this development of a hosted solution, and funds are not adequate to update the system as necessary. The Council has developed SB 420 as a proposal to address future demands on the system. The limitations on expenditures are those that are set by the legislature, not the Council. A copy of the draft of the bill has been posted on the kansas911.org website to make it easily available for interested parties to view the proposal.

Thank you for your willingness to review the situation and this proposal.

*marci francisco*  
Marci Francisco

P.S. The first 911 call was made by Mr. Rankin Fite, the Alabama Speaker of the House, from the Haleyville City Hall on February 16, 1968 – so we have just marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that first 911 call!