

March 12, 2019

The Honorable _____
Kansas Senate District ____
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator _____:

On behalf of local governments and 911 agencies in the Kansas City metro and across the State, we are writing to ask your support for the original HB2084 and removal of an amendment passed by the House on Feb. 27.

This week, the Kansas Senate Utilities Committee will consider HB2084, a bill designed to provide local governments with funds that are critically important to sustaining 911 systems across the state and implementing Next Generation 911 technology, which saves lives and property by enhancing the speed of call delivery and response. Unfortunately, the version of the bill approved by the House included an amendment that dramatically changes these intended outcomes.

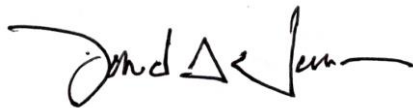
The current 911 funding rate of 60 cents per line per month has long been recognized as insufficient to sustain current 911 operations, let alone keep pace with new technology. As originally written, HB 2084 proposed raising the fee to \$1.03 per line per month — a conservative fee compared to comparable states.

The House amendment would raise the fee from 60 to 82 cents per line per month, but the distribution of the increase has the unintended consequence of actually reducing 911 fees to public safety answering points (PSAPs) by an average of 2 cents per line per month. While some PSAPs would see modest increases to 911 fee revenues under the amended version, every PSAP in the Kansas City region would see a reduction in funding rather than the additional funds they so desperately need.

The Legislature's vision to migrate all PSAPs to NG911 technology simply cannot be achieved with the 82-cent fee. This amended version of the bill will require local governments to rely on property taxes to sustain 911 services. Public safety communications professionals in our region and across the state believe Kansas deserve better.

We encourage the Senate Utilities Committee to remove the House Amendment and return the total fee to the amount originally proposed in HB2084, and we ask for your support for the original \$1.03 fee when this bill comes to the Senate floor. If you or your staff would like any more information, we would be happy to talk with you at any time.

Sincerely,



David A. Warm
MARC Executive Director



Eric Winebrenner
MARC Public Safety Communications Program Director