



The City of Grove City, Ohio

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OHIO SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
March 21, 2023
Written Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 50

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Ohio Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 50, which would make critical updates to Ohio's 9-1-1 system across the state while maintaining local control of 9-1-1 operations.

The City of Grove City serves a population of over 42,000 residents and 1200 businesses. The City operates a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). The Communication Center provides 911 services for three additional Townships (Pleasant Prairie and Jackson) in southwest Franklin County. In 2022, the PSAP dispatched 74,000 calls for service.

Ohio's 9-1-1 system was built based on landlines and basic cellular technology. Upgrades in technology require upgrades to 9-1-1 capabilities.

- Today's cellular technology allows us to carry handheld computers with advanced technology far beyond what 9-1-1 is prepared to receive.
- Public expectations include the advanced technological capabilities of communications devices.
- Public expectation also includes the ability to text, send video, pictures and specific location information.
- Those who answer the calls/connections should be provided advanced technology to respond based on the information received and transfer that same critical information to the proper response jurisdiction.

- Without a priority network that can handle the technology and ability to connect communications centers, the caller will experience an inferior response to their crisis.

Advanced technology can enhance emergency response by providing:

- The ability to communicate with someone via text to protect their safety.
- The capability to provide life-saving instructions and potentially assist the caller with technique and effectiveness via video.
- The ability for communications centers to connect and share impactful location and call-specific information quickly.
- Next Generation 9-1-1 elevates capabilities to the caller's level of technology and will **save lives**.

Respectfully,

Kelley Davidson

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City of Grove City, Communications Center Manager

Kevin Teaford

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City of Grove City, Safety Director