PUBLIC SAFETY

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Requested Action

The Public Safety Team is a coalition of first responders, elected officials, business leaders, and community members asking our federal partners to fund programs that support emerging public safety technology and policies that improve first responder safety. Specifically:

- Advocate for responsible policies around artificial intelligence that allow for public safety advancement while protecting the community from irresponsible usage.
- Support legislation that allows for enforcement of airspace violations committed while operating drones.
- Support public safety exceptions to airspace regulations when it improves public safety.

Business Nexus

Businesses benefit when communities are vibrant, healthy, and safe. Ensuring the safety of our region's business owners, residents, and visitors is a top priority for Public Safety agencies across out multi-county area. Developing policies and federal programs to strengthen emerging technologies that improve first responder safety allows public safety employees to better serve citizens.

2024 Capitol-to-Capitol
For additional information, please contact Robert Heidt, President & CEO
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Background

The Public Safety Team strongly supports the following policies, funding, and advancements in technology to further public safety and first responder responses to better serve citizens across California's Capital Region:

Senate Bill (S.1631): The 118th Congress proposed Senate Bill (S.1631) called the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act. This bi-partisan co-sponsored legislation would responsibly help the law catch up with technology and support State, Local, Territorial, Tribal (SLTT) law enforcement agencies to locate both dangerous and nefarious operators.

In addition, to the support of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act, we would ask Congress to also provide the authority State, Local, Territorial, Tribal (SLTT) law enforcement agencies to take regulatory action in the form of state law or local ordinance over UAS operating illegally within the National Airspace and below 400' AGL for violations of CFR14 Part 107. The FAA has jurisdiction over the National Airspace and current state and local agencies are unable to enforce violations of this section. This change would assist in local law enforcement being able to control airspace during emergencies leading to a safer and more efficient deployment of resources.

Artificial Intelligence: The launching of a congressional bi-partisan task force on artificial intelligence was needed. Federal guidelines governing artificial intelligence (AI) are crucial to facilitate the utilization of AI in advancing public safety while concurrently safeguarding against potential abuse by malicious actors. Such guidelines serve as a framework for ensuring that AI technologies are developed, deployed, and regulated responsibly, prioritizing ethical considerations, transparency, and accountability. By establishing clear standards and protocols, these guidelines help mitigate risks associated with AI misuse, such as biased decision-making, privacy violations, and security breaches. Additionally, they provide a basis for fostering public trust and confidence in AI systems, encouraging innovation and adoption while minimizing the potential for harmful consequences. Ultimately, robust federal guidelines are essential for harnessing the benefits of AI in enhancing public safety while mitigating its associated risks.

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