

Dear Chairperson Roars and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2296. I am Jill Breuer, the Communications/911 Manager for Richland County. I would like to express my strong endorsement of Public Safety Telecommunicators as an important initiative to recognize the vital role of "first responders" in our communities. It is crucial to acknowledge and support all individuals trained to provide immediate help during emergencies, including the public safety telecommunicators who act as the essential link between those in distress and the resources that save lives.


Traditionally, the term "first responder" encompasses paramedics, firefighters, and law enforcement officers who provide urgent aid during crises. However, it is imperative to include public safety telecommunicators in this definition. These dedicated professionals coordinate emergency responses, deliver critical instructions, and ensure the swift dispatch of resources while operating under immense stress.

The impact of their role cannot be overstated. They are the first points of contact in emergencies, providing guidance, reassurance, and essential instructions to callers in crisis. Their expertise often makes the difference between life and death, directly influencing the success of interventions done by on-scene responders.

Recognizing public safety telecommunicators as first responders not only honors their commitment but also enhances the support, training, and resources they rightfully deserve. This designation reinforces the importance of their work and strengthens our entire emergency response framework.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to addressing this critical issue. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

  
Jill Breuer

Richland County Communications/911 Manager