



**Testimony of  
Lisa McCabe  
CTIA  
In Opposition to Connecticut House Bill 5299  
February 16, 2017**

**Before the on Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security**

Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and members of the committee, CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, opposes Connecticut House Bill 5299, which would require that a 9-1-1 call be routed to the nearest public safety answering point based on the geographical location from which the 9-1-1 call originated. Specifically, CTIA believes this legislation is unnecessary because Connecticut's public safety officials already direct wireless providers to route 9-1-1 calls to a designated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

By way of background, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules require wireless providers to transmit all wireless 9-1-1 calls to a designated PSAP.<sup>1</sup> Under those rules, a PSAP is defined as a "facility that has been designated to receive 911 calls and route them to emergency services personnel."<sup>2</sup>

Based on the FCC's rules, wireless calls to 9-1-1 are routed to a designated PSAP based on tower or cell site from which the call originates. HB5299 is unnecessary because public safety entities designate PSAPs to receive wireless 9-1-1 calls from a tower or cell site, and wireless providers ensure 9-1-1 calls originated on their networks adhere to those designations. On the rare occasion that a call is picked up by an antenna that does not serve the appropriate PSAP, Connecticut's public safety personnel are very adept at transferring the call in a timely and efficient manner.

For more than 20 years, wireless consumers have used cellphones to call 9-1-1 for help during an emergency. While CTIA believes this legislation is unnecessary, CTIA's wireless provider member companies remain committed to working with Connecticut's 9-1-1 public safety officials to ensure 9-1-1 calls continue to be routed to a designated PSAP, consistent with FCC rules.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. 20.18(b)

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. 64.3000(b)