

Eshoo Introduces Legislation to Increase 9-1-1 Awareness

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Annual "National 9-1-1 Education Month" Would Help Save Lives

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, co-chair of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus, announced the introduction of legislation to increase national awareness about the importance and appropriate use of 9-1-1 services.

The legislation, H.Res. 537, supports the designation of one month each year as "National 9-1-1 Education Month." The designation would encourage the development of annual public awareness events, public advertising campaigns, targeted outreach to schools, and training activities for parents and teachers to ensure that all Americans can access these critical services in an emergency.

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"Calling 9-1-1 is the universal lifeline for people in distress often provides the first alert to public safety professionals about natural disasters and national security threats," said Eshoo, D-Palo Alto. "This legislation will help everyone know how and when to use 9-1-1, including vulnerable populations. Through education, children, senior citizens, the deaf and hard of hearing, and those with limited English skill will learn how to access emergency services when they need them."

Over 200 million emergency calls are made each year through 6,000 9-1-1 public answering points (PSAPs) serving 3,000 counties and parishes throughout the United States. With new communications technologies and the establishment of numerous other N-1-1 non-emergency numbers, 9-1-1 education is more critical than ever.

Eshoo and Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., the House co-chairs of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus, unveiled the legislation at a Capitol Hill news conference. H.Res. 537 was introduced with 17 co-sponsors.

The legislation has the strong support of the E9-1-1 Institute; the National Emergency Number Association (NENA); the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators (NASNA); the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO); CTIA - The Wireless Association; 9-1-1 for Kids; and COMCARE-Emergency Response Alliance.

The bipartisan, bicameral Congressional E91-1 Caucus was established in 2003 to educate lawmakers, constituents and communities about the importance of citizen-activated emergency response systems. Eshoo and Shimkus are founding co-chairs of the caucus.

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