



The VON Coalition

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VON Coalition Praises Senate Leaders For Helping Unlock 9-1-1 Solutions for VoIP

BACKGROUND: Today, Senator Nelson, Snowe and Clinton introduced the "IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act of 2007." The legislation would help accelerate VoIP 911 solutions by providing direct access to the 9-1-1 network, enabling equivalent liability relief for call-takers, and requiring a national plan for a next generation 9-1-1 system.

The following statement can be attributed to Staci Pies, President of the VON Coalition.

"Dialing 9-1-1 can be the most important call a person ever makes. That is why VoIP providers are committed to providing 9-1-1 emergency service in an Internet world, and support FCC and Congressional efforts to ensure VoIP subscribers can reach emergency services by dialing 9-1-1."

Today's introduction of legislation by Senators Nelson, Snowe, and Clinton is an important recognition that fostering complete and comprehensive solutions for the delivery of 9-1-1 calls by VoIP providers is critical for consumers local emergency response personnel and industry alike.

These lawmakers understand that providing 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 services is a shared responsibility requiring the development of new industry standards and technologies, as well as coordination among public safety agencies, VoIP providers, and incumbent local exchange carriers who own the emergency services infrastructure. They recognize that providing E9-1-1 requires direct access to the 9-1-1 network itself, equivalent liability protection for 9-1-1 providers and call takers, and assurances that someone will be there to answer the call. This legislation focuses not only on what is achievable today, but also on the future by developing a comprehensive national plan for creating a next generation 9-1-1 network capable of a host of breakthrough emergency enhancements.

Members of the VON Coalition are dedicated to offering the most robust 9-1-1 service possible, and are grateful to these lawmakers for working to provide the FCC with the tools it needs to ensure that the VoIP community is able to meet its obligations to provide emergency calling services. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress to further refine the legislation."

About the VON Coalition:

The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over Internet. The coalition, which includes AccessLine, AT&T, BMX, BT Americas, CallSmart, Cisco, Convedia, Covad, EarthLink, iBasis, i3 Voice and Data, Intel, Intrado, Microsoft, New Global Telecom, Openwave, Pandora Networks, PointOne, Pulver.com, Skype, Switch Business Solutions, T-Mobile USA, United Online, USA Datanet, VocalData, Veraz Networks, and Yahoo! works to advance regulatory policies that enable Americans to take advantage of the full promise and potential of VoIP. The Coalition believes that with the right public policies, Internet based voice advances can make talking more affordable, businesses more productive, jobs more plentiful, the Internet more valuable, and Americans more safe and secure. Since its inception, the VON Coalition has promoted pragmatic policy choices for unleashing VoIP's potential. <http://www.von.org>