

Press Release – Introduction of Kari’s Law Act of 2015

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The following statement in response to the introduction of the "Kari's Law Act of 2015" (see press release below) introduced today by Rep. Louie Gohmert, can be attributed to NG9-1-1 Institute Executive Director Patrick Halley:

“All consumers should be able to dial three numbers, and only three numbers – 9-1-1 – to receive help in emergency situations. The NG9-1-1 Institute appreciates Rep. Gohmert’s leadership in recognizing the importance of ensuring direct access to 9-1-1 for all callers, including users of multi-line telephone systems. Too many lives are lost when that is not the case.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gohmert Introduces **‘The Kari’s Law Act of 2015’**

Bill Would Ensure Anyone Dialing 9-1-1 Would Reach Emergency Personnel

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01) introduced ‘The Kari’s Law Act of 2015’ today in the U.S. House of Representatives. He released the following statement on this legislation which ensures that anyone who dials 9-1-1 will reach emergency personnel, even if the phone typically requires that user to dial “9” to get an outside line:

“Two years ago this week, a precious life was cut short tragically. Kari Rene Hunt, a resident of Marshall, Texas, was murdered by her estranged husband in a hotel room. Kari’s 9 year-old-daughter, while witnessing the brutal murder, did what most all parents teach their kids to do in an emergency— she dialed 9-1-1. However, in this case, Kari’s daughter was unable to reach help because she failed to dial “9” to reach an outside line before dialing 9-1-1. Not only did this tragedy bring sorrow and anguish to a tight knit community, but many in our nation also lost trust in a system it relies on in life or death situations.”

“It is clear that our 9-1-1 system failed in a time of need. No longer should a child, or anyone for that matter, pick up the phone to call for help and get nothing. It is necessary to make sure emergency operators can be contacted immediately, when dealing in dangerous situations. The bill I introduced today would ensure that anyone who dials 9-1-1 can reach emergency personnel even if the phone typically requires that user to dial “9” to get an outside line.”

“When we learned this could be easily done with very little if any expense at all, we knew this bill had to become a reality. While this legislation will not reverse the heartbreaking loss of Kari and all the horrors of that day, hopefully, her legacy will safeguard others – so they may never experience a situation of this magnitude.”

[To read H.R. 4167, click here.](#)

Congressman Gohmert is the Chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Vice Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Prior to being elected to serve in Congress, he was elected to three terms as District Judge in Smith County, Texas and was appointed by then Texas Governor Rick Perry to complete a term as Chief Justice of the 12th Court of Appeals.