

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1175

To categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 15, 2021

Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Accurate
5 Views of Emergency Services Act of 2021” or the “911
6 SAVES Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Public safety telecommunicators play a crit-
2 ical role in emergency response.

3 (2) The work performed by public safety tele-
4 communicators goes far beyond merely relaying in-
5 formation between the public and first responders.

6 (3) When responding to reports of missing, ab-
7 ducted, and sexually exploited children, the informa-
8 tion obtained and actions taken by public safety tele-
9 communicators form the foundation for an effective
10 response.

11 (4) When a hostage taker or suicidal person
12 calls 9–1–1, the first contact is with the public safe-
13 ty telecommunicator whose negotiation skills can
14 prevent the situation from getting worse.

15 (5) During active shooter incidents, public safe-
16 ty telecommunicators coach callers through first aid
17 and give advice to prevent further harm, all while
18 collecting vital information to provide situational
19 awareness for responding officers.

20 (6) When gunshots are fired at police officers,
21 firefighters, or emergency medical technicians, their
22 calls for help go to public safety telecommunicators.

23 (7) Public safety telecommunicators often com-
24 municate with people in great distress, harm, fear,

1 or injury, while employing their experience and
2 training to recognize a critical piece of information.

3 (8) There have been incidents in which public
4 safety telecommunicators, recognizing the sound of a
5 racked shotgun, have prevented serious harm or
6 death of law enforcement officers who would have
7 otherwise walked into a trap.

8 (9) The work of public safety telecommunica-
9 tors comes with an extreme emotional and physical
10 impact that is compounded by long hours and the
11 around-the-clock nature of the job.

12 (10) Research has suggested that public safety
13 telecommunicators are exposed to trauma that may
14 lead to the development of posttraumatic stress dis-
15 order.

16 (11) Recognizing the risks associated with expo-
17 sure to traumatic events, some agencies provide crit-
18 ical incident stress debriefing teams to lessen the
19 psychological impact and accelerate recovery for
20 public safety telecommunicators and first respond-
21 ers, alike.

22 (12) The Standard Occupational Classification
23 System is designed and maintained solely for statis-
24 tical purposes, and is used by Federal statistical
25 agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupa-

1 tional categories for the purpose of collecting, calcu-
2 lating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

3 (13) Occupations in the Standard Occupational
4 Classification are classified based on work performed
5 and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or train-
6 ing needed to perform the work.

7 (14) Classifying public safety telecommunica-
8 tors as a protective service occupation would correct
9 an inaccurate representation in the Standard Occu-
10 pational Classification, recognize these professionals
11 for the lifesaving work they perform, and better
12 align the Standard Occupational Classification with
13 related classification systems.

14 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS AS PRO-**
15 **TECTIVE SERVICE OCCUPATIONS.**

16 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
17 et shall, not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, categorize public safety telecommunica-
19 tors as a protective service occupation under the Standard
20 Occupational Classification System.

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