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September 11, 2014

Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Proceeding No. 07-114

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), including the American Stroke Association (ASA) and over 22.5 million volunteers and supporters across the country, we commend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its work on proposing a two-year path to indoor location accuracy standards for wireless 911 calls.

As we previously indicated in our comments filed on May 9, 2014, time spent looking for a wireless 911 indoor caller is valuable, lifesaving time not spent treating patients suffering from an acute cardiovascular event.

We firmly believe FCC's proposed standards will have significant health benefits. For instance, we know that there are almost 424,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests each year – and tragically most result in death. Timely cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillation in these cases, when coupled with early advanced care, can increase long-term survival rates. This is just one example of why accurate location information plays a crucial role in helping patients facing an acute cardiovascular event. In other words, it helps these patients get the care they need, when they need it. The FCC estimates more than 10,000 lives could be saved each year if accurate location information was required on all wireless calls to 911.

We also understand that technologies are available today that can immediately deliver a Phase II compliant location for all calls: indoor or outdoor, in all environments and enable accurate x-y routing. Accurate location information is critical to helping first responders and emergency medical personnel promptly locate individuals in need, especially when responding to individuals with acute cardiovascular conditions such as sudden cardiac arrest, heart attack, and stroke, where time is of the essence and every second counts. Quickly locating individuals suffering from acute cardiac conditions is essential to providing them with timely care that not only saves lives but improves health outcomes too.

We urge the FCC to move forward, without delay, in implementing a two-year path to indoor location accuracy standards. With your help, we can ensure that no more lives are lost due simply to the inability to locate an individual in need.

We look forward to working with you and the Commission to ensure this rulemaking occurs in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Elliott M. Antman, MD, FAHA
President, American Heart Association

Cc: Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner
Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
RADM David Simpson, Chief, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau
Mr. David Furth, Deputy Chief, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau