



June 25, 2018

The Honorable Bill Blessing
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing:

We would like to express our support for Senate Bill 263, the Notary Public Modernization Act, which comprehensively reforms how notaries public in the state of Ohio are commissioned and regulated. The legislation also allows commissioned notaries to leverage modern technology to perform their duties remotely, while still ensuring safety and soundness.

Senators Huffman and Wilson have worked diligently to ensure that authorizing remote notarization in Ohio was also paired with improving the current system of commissioning notaries, as one cannot occur without the other. Specifically, the legislation streamlines and consolidates the commissioning of notaries public under the Secretary of State's office, rather than county by county. Among other things, the Secretary of State's office will now be responsible for: reviewing applications, collecting commissioning fees, and maintaining an online database of registrants. These improvements to our antiquated notary system will produce the more competent and vetted notaries essential to our state's commerce, and enable them to better protect Ohio's citizens.

Those who wish to perform notarizations online using live video links will also need to register with the Secretary of State. The Secretary will be responsible for approving technology, record retention and consumer protection. The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) has recently adopted standards to be used as guidance during the rule-making period.

If approved, we believe Senate Bill 263 will result in consumers having more freedom and flexibility in choosing how to finalize personal transactions. Further, it will give traditional notaries more regulatory certainty in how they conduct their important business.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this important piece of legislation and we are happy to address any questions during the legislative process.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zach Doran'.

Zach Doran
President
Ohio Automobile Dealers Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Holfinger'.

Dustin Holfinger
Vice President of State Government Relations
Ohio Bankers League

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Leite'.

Emily Leite
Vice-President, Government Affairs
Ohio Credit Union League

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott R. Williams'.

Scott R. Williams
Vice President, Public Policy
Ohio Realtors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Rill'.

Roger Rill
President
Ohio Society of Notaries

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Chodos'.

Michael Chodos
General Counsel, Senior VP
Notarize

CC: Members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee