



June 26, 2018

Representative Louis W. Blessing III, Chairman  
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Blessing and Members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee,

I write today in support of Senate Bill 263, the Notary Public Modernization Act. As Secretary of State, I oversee the Ohio Notary Public Commission, appoint and commission notaries public, and maintain a record of each notary public commissioned in Ohio.

Senate Bill 263 will modernize and simplify the process to appoint and commission notaries public in the state of Ohio. Additionally, this bill would allow for electronic and online notarization to be used in Ohio. Innovations like these are what will ensure our state is more competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Businesses and financial institutions are increasingly using electronic means to conduct business, and this effort to modernize our operations will better position Ohio to meet this growing demand.

Currently, three states allow electronic and online notarization. This legislation has been crafted based on the experience of those states and the resources available through the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), with proper standards and safeguards in place for consumers, notaries, and all parties involved.

I applaud Senator Huffman and Senator Wilson for proposing this forward thinking legislation. Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Husted".

Jon Husted