STATEMENT OF THE OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 300

Before the Senate General Government Budget Committee
Senator Bob Peterson, Chair

Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Ohio Senate General Government Budget Committee: On behalf of the Ohio State Bar Association ("OSBA"), thank you for the opportunity to present written-only testimony in support of Senate Bill 300.

Senate Bill 263, which took effect on September 20, 2019, was a complex and significant undertaking that has considerably improved the notary process in our state. As with any other major step forward, tracking feedback and maintaining implementation flexibility is indispensable to achieving success. In line with the same, Senate Bill 300 offers clarity as to the intended impact of several updates. Specifically, the OSBA is supportive of the changes in this bill that that remove the following from the definition of "acknowledgement:" that the signer of a document acknowledges to a notary that the signer understands the document and is aware of the consequences of executing the document.

We are also supportive of the clarification as to what language will be required for notarial certificates, as contained in the code. These changes will clear up significant confusion regarding what needs to be included in notarial certificates.

We are thankful to the bill sponsor and the Ohio Secretary of State's office for their hard work on the necessary clarifications contained in Senate Bill 300. These updates will give our practitioners the guidance they need to ensure they are complying with the laws of the state of Ohio when preforming notarial acts and when preparing documents to be notarized. This will also serve to support notary publics throughout our state and the important services they provide to Ohioans.

The OSBA is willing to help in whatever way we can as the legislature considers this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of this important legislation.