

June 23, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
United States House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Subcommittee Chairwoman Schakowsky, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Bilirakis:

Thank you for including H.R. 3962, the Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic (SECURE) Notarization Act in the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce hearing on May 26, 2022. We appreciate your continued leadership in advancing this important legislation, which now has the strong, bipartisan support of over 100 cosponsors.

The SECURE Notarization Act provides businesses and consumers with the ability to execute critical documents using two-way audiovisual communication. Current requirements for a signer to physically be in the presence of a Notary are often impractical and sometimes impossible due to social distancing constraints resulting from COVID-19, as well as other barriers including military service or work travel. Forty states have already recognized the benefits of Remote Online Notarization (RON) and passed legislation authorizing its use.

Notarizations are used extensively in real estate transactions, as well as in a variety of other important areas including affidavits, powers of attorney, living trusts, advance health care directives, and automotive transactions, among others.

A survey conducted by the American Land Title Association of major vendors working in the RON space found that use of RON increased 547% during 2020 when compared to 2019. This increase can be attributed to heightened demand for RON during the pandemic, in addition to the expansion of States with permanent law recognizing its value. Clearly there is a need and demand for this approach across the country.

Given the dramatic adjustments businesses have had to make during the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government should provide the critical tools to leverage technology to continue to keep Americans safe while also meeting their needs into the future through innovation. The past few years have shown technological solutions can increase accessibility and reduce burdens for people across the United States.

The SECURE Notarization Act would allow for the immediate nationwide use of RON technology. The legislation provides certainty for interstate recognition of RON and establishes robust minimum standards to ensure strong nationwide consumer protections.

We greatly appreciate your leadership, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and Congress to swiftly enact this bipartisan, common-sense proposal.

Sincerely,

American Council of Life Insurers
American Escrow Association
American Financial Services Association
American Land Title Association
BSA | The Software Alliance
Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers
Credit Union National Association
Electronic Signature and Records Association
Financial Services Institute
Housing Policy Council
Independent Community Bankers of America®
Insured Retirement Institute
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association for Fixed Annuities
National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
National Association of REALTORS®
SPARK Institute
Worldwide ERC

CC: The Honorable Madeleine Dean
The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
The Honorable Bobby Rush
The Honorable Kathy Castor
The Honorable Lori Trahan
The Honorable Jerry McNerney
The Honorable Yvette Clarke
The Honorable Antonio Cárdenas
The Honorable Debbie Dingell
The Honorable Robin Kelly
The Honorable Darren Soto
The Honorable Kathleen Rice

The Honorable Angie Craig

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher

The Honorable Fred Upton

The Honorable Bob Latta

The Honorable Brett Guthrie

The Honorable Larry Bucshon

The Honorable Neal Dunn

The Honorable Debbie Lesko

The Honorable Greg Pence