

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warner and Cramer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for the Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act (SECURE Notarization Act). We appreciate your leadership on this important legislation.

The SECURE Notarization Act allows businesses and consumers 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. Thirty-four 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, and advance health care directives, among others. A survey conducted by the American Land Title Association of major vendors working in the RON space found that use of RON has 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. This past year has 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. Current or future state laws meeting the national minimum standards will supersede this federal law.

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

Sincerely,

Agents National Title Insurance Company
American Council of Life Insurers
American Financial Services Association
American Land Title Association

Amrock
California Mortgage Bankers Associations
Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers
CUNA Mutual Group
DocuSign
Electronic Signature and Records Association
eNotaryLog
Fidelity National Financial
Financial Services Institute
First American Title Insurance Company
Housing Policy Council
Independent Community Bankers of America®
Internet Association
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association for Fixed Annuities
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
National Association of REALTORS®
NexsysTech
North American Title Insurance Company
Notarize
NotaryCam
Old Republic National Title Insurance Company
PennyMac Financial Services, Inc.
Property Records Industry Association
SIGNiX
SimplySecureSign
Stavvy
Stewart Title Guaranty Company
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America
Westcor Land Title Insurance Company
WFG National Title insurance Company
Worldwide ERC®
Zillow