

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 106

Date: February 9, 2021

To: Chairwoman Kellie Warren and Members of the Committee
Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Stephanie Mullholland
Heartland Credit Union Association

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for Senate Bill 106. Heartland Credit Union Association represents the 690,000+ Kansans who belong to a Kansas credit union. Our member credit unions range from the state's smallest, Catholics United Credit Union in Hutchinson, to the state's largest, Meritrust Credit Union, which serves the employees of Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita.

SB 106 puts Kansas on par with other states.

Roughly half of all states operate under similar Remote Online Notarization (RON) laws, allowing consumers the option and convenience of conducting business through modern-day technology.

Remote Online Notarization has been working for Kansans during the pandemic.

When COVID-19 emerged last year, Kansas was among the states to institute RON on a temporary basis (via Executive Order). This capability was essential as credit unions worked to serve the needs of their members during the state's stay-at-home orders. In particular, RON has allowed Kansans to complete real estate financial transactions remotely at a time when low interest rates have created a surge in the mortgage and refinance market. However, when the pandemic subsides and the Executive Order expires, consumer demand will continue to exist for modernizations like RON.

SB 106 creates long-term conveniences for Kansas consumers.

Notarial acts are a necessary component of the residential loan closing process. As credit unions continue to serve members' needs using online, mobile, and other electronic means, it has become evident that our state's notarial laws require modernization, like that proposed in SB 106, in order to support this shift in technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We ask for your favorable consideration of SB 106.

