



Mark Tomb
Vice President of Governmental Affairs
Kansas Association of REALTORS®
3644 SW Burlingame Rd.
Topeka, KS 66611
785-414-5155
mark@kansasrealtor.com

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: February 9, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 106

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to express support for SB 106, which would enact the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts (RULONA). This bill provides for a long overdue modernization of notary law in Kansas.

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® represents over 10,000 members involved in residential, agricultural and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

The need for modernization of the notary law was reinforced during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Kansans began to limit their in-person interactions, those seeking notary services began demanding solutions to meet the needs of the new normal. In March 2020, KAR reached out to the Secretary of State's office to communicate a need for a short-term alternative to in-person notary services. KAR and other stakeholders were subsequently invited by the Secretary of State's office to provide feedback on a draft executive order that would eventually become portions of Governor Kelly's [Executive Order 20-20](#).

Executive Order 20-20 and its subsequent extensions provides an appropriate short-term solution to the demonstrated demand for Remote Online Notary (RON) services. However, a long-term solution is needed to provide more certainty as we move on from the pandemic and the eventual expiration of the State of Disaster Emergency Declaration.

A modern notary law will allow Kansans to match the pace of current business practices while providing consumer protections through the appropriate use of technology. In closing, the Kansas Association of REALTORS® respectfully request the Senate Judiciary Committee act favorably on SB 106. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with comments.