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May 26, 2022

**The Honorable Janice Schakowsky
Chairwoman**

House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection
& Commerce
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
Ranking Member**

House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection
& Commerce
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the SECURE Notarization Act

**Dear Chairwoman Schakowsky, Ranking Member Bilirakis, and Members of the
Subcommittee:**

Thank you for including H.R. 3962, the Securing and Enhancing Commerce Using Remote and Electronic (SECURE) Notarization Act, in today's hearing. I am writing in strong support of this bipartisan legislation.

The SECURE Notarization Act permits nationwide use of remote online notarization (RON) with key consumer protections – including multi-factor authentication of the signer and the use of tamper-evident technology, along with certainty for the interstate recognition of RON.

RON provides additional flexibilities and options for safely executing critical life documents, including real estate transactions, wills, and health care directives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have realized that requiring a signer to be physically present with a notary is impractical and sometimes not possible. For example, some people may not be able to take time away from work, have difficulty locating a notary, or are physically immobile due to age or a disability. RON allows those who may otherwise skip or delay a notarization the flexibilities and freedom to do so at their preferred time. Importantly, our active-duty military personnel stationed overseas may use RON to conduct business back in the United States – like closing on a lease with their family.

More than 40 states have already recognized the benefits of RON and enacted permanent laws allowing its use, while others have authorized RON via emergency orders. Current or future state laws that meet the national minimum standards will work in concert with this federal law – the language in the SECURE Notarization Act was designed to complement state notarial laws while setting practical nation-wide standards.

Finally, I would also like to note the SECURE Notarization Act passed the House of Representatives as Title LXV of H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022. Additionally, the bill currently has 92 bipartisan cosponsors.

Thank you again for including this legislation as part of your hearing, and for exploring the possibility of enacting federal remote online notarization standards. I am eager to advance this important bill and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress