



Testimony of W. Wyatt Bosworth
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Before the Committee on the Judiciary
Hartford, Connecticut
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Testifying in Support of:

SB 1040: AAC Remote Notarial Acts

HB 6713: AA Adopting the Connecticut Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts

My name is Wyatt Bosworth and I am assistant counsel for CBIA, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-three percent of our member companies are small businesses, with less than 100 employees. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 1040: AAC Remote Notarial Acts and HB 6713: AA Adopting the Connecticut Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.**

With Connecticut small businesses still struggling to fill open positions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and historic workforce shortages, this legislature needs to do everything in its power to lessen the cost of doing business in the state. Remote online notarization (RON) statutes and regulations are active in the vast majority of states and have proven to foster more timely and efficient business practices. RON is especially important given the workforce's migration from in-person to telework.

By permanently establishing a RON process in Connecticut, a wide-range of businesses and consumers will benefit. Consider just how far notarial requirements reach: construction companies use notaries for permit applications, building plan requests and contracts, hospitals use notaries when hiring staff to notarize background checks and internal documents, real estate companies use notaries when closing a property, and insurance companies use notaries for a variety of purposes in administering and closing out internal transactions. Notarization affects virtually every business in every industry.

The critical importance of this legislation is reflected by the fact that CBIA worked alongside a broad coalition of industry stakeholders representing both commercial and municipal interests in the state to push for permanent RON procedures under state law.

HB 6713 represents a more comprehensive approach to establish RON procedures in the state. The bill is largely identical to legislation proposed in prior years and builds off the model that the Uniform Law Commission offered to state through the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts (RULONA). Today, forty-two other states have adopted largely similar versions of RULONA, and HB 6713 would add Connecticut to that list. The only major deviation from RULONA's framework and HB 6713 is how a few specific transactions are handled. For example, HB 6713 establishes special rules for the remote notarization of real estate closings, and exempts wills, trusts and other estate documents from the RON requirements. In contrast, SB 1040 excludes the execution of wills, trusts and other estate documents, as well as real estate closings, from RON requirements altogether. Despite these material differences, both bills achieve a similar end: small businesses will be able to utilize remote online notarization when conducting transactions and operations, consumers will benefit from these efficiencies, and the state will move the needle on fostering a more business-friendly environment.

CBIA, at a minimum, urges the committee to advance SB 1040 as it will allow small businesses to conduct remote online notarization in a manner similar to what was permitted via executive order during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your consideration.