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To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: May 18, 2020

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2713

Honorable Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to express support for HB 2713, 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 nearly 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, 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 Governor Kelly's [Executive Order 20-20](#).

Executive Order 20-20 provides an appropriate short term solution to this problem. However, the Executive Order is currently set to expire on May 31, 2020. While it is possible this Executive Order can be extended again, there is still a need for a long term solution. HB 2713 provides a long term solution, however the current date of enactment for this legislation causes some concerns. In conversations with the Secretary of State's Office they advise the effective date should not be changed due to the complexity involved with several components of the legislation. KAR suggests that if amendments are considered, the legislation should be amended to include an abbreviated remote notary process similar to what is found in Executive Order 20-20.

In closing, the Kansas Association of REALTORS® respectfully request the Senate Judiciary Committee act favorably on HB 2713. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with comments.