

NEW JERSEY NOTARY ASSOCIATION

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Governor Brian Schweitzer
State of Montana
PO Box 200801
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May 6, 2011

Governor Schweitzer,

On behalf of the Notaries Public of the State of New Jersey, I wish to commend you for your decision to veto Montana House Bill No. 306 (HB 306), "**AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR A NOTARY PUBLIC TO KEEP AND MAINTAIN AN OFFICIAL NOTARY JOURNAL; AMENDING SECTIONS 1-5-416 AND 1-5-419, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**"

As your veto notice provided to Secretary of State McCulloch indicates, the elimination of the mandatory journal would vastly increase the potential for fraud and identity theft.

In New Jersey, the use of a notary journal is only a mere recommendation. We lack the statutory provision requiring the maintenance of these important records. Legislation has been introduced in the New Jersey Assembly and Senate which would provide such statutory requirement. The New Jersey Notary Association proudly supports New Jersey Assemblywoman Joan Voss and A463 as well as New Jersey Senator Nicolas Scutari and his S2008. If this legislation were to become law, New Jersey Notaries Public would be required to enroll in a notary public educational course and maintain a notary journal of their official acts.

Unfortunately, I have seen the results of notaries public who lack the journal entry to provide additional evidence to questioned acts. This has exposed many Notaries Public to potential personal liability and loss, when a simple notary journal may have provided the additional evidence necessary to prove the authenticity of a suspect transaction.

Again, I commend and thank you for doing your part to protect the citizens and commerce of the State of Montana.

Respectfully,


Patrick M. Anthony
President

CC: Joan Voss, NJ Assemblywoman
Nicolas Scutari, NJ Senator
Stephen Sweeney, NJ Senate President
Andrew Pantelides, NJ Assistant Director of Business Services
Brett Waters, NJ Notary Association Secretary