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LD 913

I am writing to OPPOSE this bill on behalf of my employer, PortTIX, a local ticketing box office in Portland, ME. Ticket resale causes MANY issues for our customers, our staff, and the organizations we sell tickets for. Re-sale websites use predatory practices that especially prey on vulnerable buyers who may not have as strong internet skills, leading for example to a grandparent paying hundreds of dollars over face value to see their grandchild dance in the Nutcracker at Merrill! This bill does NOT benefit customers or the local arts organizations that put on events and sell tickets directly.

Here is a breakdown of the ways this bill benefits RESALE companies and not local organizations or customers:

- The purpose of this bill to mandate ticket transferability—a policy that benefits resale platforms like StubHub and Vivid Seats while driving up costs for fans.
- It fails to ban speculative ticket sales, deceptive websites, hidden fees, or price gouging. It does not hold professional resellers accountable or guarantee refunds for invalid tickets.
- Mandating ticket transferability strips us of the ability to ensure tickets go to real fans and hands control to resale platforms.
- Unrestricted transferability allows tickets to be flipped repeatedly, escalating prices far beyond face value. This bill also prevents venues from denying entry to an event solely because a ticket has been resold. This essentially means that your venue or organization cannot deny entry to a ticket that was resold on the secondary market multiple times.
- When venues control resale, it becomes harder for scalpers to dominate the market, ensuring that more tickets go to actual attendees at fair prices.