



Dear Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development,

On behalf of the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), we strongly oppose LD 913.

This bill does nothing to protect consumers. 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. Instead, its only purpose is to mandate ticket transferability—a policy that benefits resale platforms like StubHub and Vivid Seats while driving up costs for fans.

Since 2020, NIVA has worked with dozens of independent venues in Maine to bring live entertainment to your constituents. Many of these venues have capacities over 3,500 and would be directly harmed by this bill. These are not corporate arenas but local venues that strengthen Maine's cultural and economic fabric. Mandating ticket transferability strips them of the ability to ensure tickets go to real fans and hands control to resale platforms.

Resale companies push for this policy because it increases site traffic, funnels more tickets into the secondary market, and allows them to collect fees every time a ticket is resold—often at massive markups.

A study by the National Independent Talent Organization (NITO) on The Cure's tour found that in California, where resale restrictions do exist, reseller profits were 99 percent lower than in states like New York, Illinois, and Colorado, where they are not. In Chicago, The Cure's resold tickets averaged 396 percent above face value. Maine risks becoming the next case study in consumer exploitation if you pass LD 913.

We cannot let resale giants dictate ticketing policy in Maine. We cannot allow the same companies profiting from sky-high resale prices to mislead us into thinking this mandated transferability helps consumers. It does not. It serves only the platforms that exploit them.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to reject LD 913.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

The National Independent Venue Association