

classical Uprising

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March 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern;

As an independent presenter of the arts in Maine, I write today in opposition of proposed bill LD 913: *An Act to Prohibit Ticket Sellers from Prohibiting the Transfer of Tickets to Third Parties*.

Although this bill may on the surface seem like a positive for ticketholders, it in actuality mostly benefits ticket 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.

As a non-profit arts presenter, mandated ticket transferability would strip us of the ability to ensure tickets are available for direct purchasers, and effectively hands control to resale platforms. Should someone have purchased a ticket to a sold-out performance of our work from a fraudulent seller or the same ticket resold in duplication, we would be forced to allow them admission and potentially turn away ticketholders who bought directly from our organization, to accommodate for venue capacity.

In addition, unrestricted transferability allows tickets to be flipped repeatedly, escalating prices far beyond face value. When venues or presenters control resale, it becomes harder for scalpers to dominate the market, ensuring that more tickets go to actual attendees at fair prices. Many viable venue-run exchanges are now available to prevent price gouging while maintaining fair access.

We encourage Maine legislators to oppose this bill and work towards a solution that better protects Maine performance venues and ticketholders.

Regards,

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