

July 25, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair
Committee on Science, Transportation, and Commerce
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 511
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz, Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Transportation, and Commerce
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 167
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Advocates Urge Senate Commerce Committee to Support HR 3950 (TICKET Act)

Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz,

The undersigned advocacy organizations write to urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee to support HR 3950, the Transparency In Charges for Key Events Ticketing Act (TICKET Act)¹ and send the bill to the floor. With the end of the current Congressional session fast approaching, now is the best chance to pass meaningful ticketing reform that will improve the lives of millions of live event fans.

Thanks to your strong leadership on ticketing legislation this Congress, especially with the Cantwell-Cruz TICKET Act (S. 1303)², there has been a national debate on ticketing at all levels of government. In May, the House built on your good work by passing its version of the TICKET Act (HR 3950) which our organizations and a broad swath of live event industry stakeholders supported.³

In its amended form, HR 3950:

¹ H.R. 3950 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): TICKET ACT,
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3950>

² S.1303 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): TICKET Act,
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1303>

³ House Energy & Commerce Committee. "Consumer Groups, Venues, and Artists Applaud House Passage of the Ticket Act." (June 13, 2024) Online:
<https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/consumer-groups-venues-and-artists-applaud-house-passage-of-the-ticket-act>

- Mandates price transparency by requiring simple, clear all-in and upfront pricing (first price you see is the final price you pay, before taxes, while still offering a detailed breakdown of mandatory fees at check-out);
- Bans speculative ticketing (so sellers cannot offer tickets they have not yet purchased);
- Prohibits ticket resellers from using the names of venues, teams, artists, and events in their online domain names;
- Provides fans a full refund to a canceled event or, if the event is postponed, a comparable replacement ticket, at the approval of the fan; and
- Requires the FTC to study the 2016-enacted BOTS Act, its enforcement to date, and to help identify challenges with its enforcement.

HR 3950 has the support of virtually every interested stakeholder in the success of the live event industry. Upon 45-0 passage in the House Energy & Commerce Committee last December, the Ticket Buyer Bill of Rights, the Fix the Tix coalition (composed of music promoters, artists, managers, and corporate and independent venues), Coalition for Ticket Fairness, International Association of Venue Managers, and Artist Rights Alliance offered statements of support for HR 3950. Specifically, Fix the Tix called the bill “the most comprehensive protections for artists and fans in ticketing.”⁴ HR 3950 creates strong consumer protections without the threats to marketplace competition posed by some other legislative proposals. It would improve the consumer experience no matter who they shop from when purchasing tickets.

Recognizing the consensus of the bill, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to pass HR 3950 with 388 ayes to only 24 nays.⁵ This massive vote demonstrates the bipartisan and common sense nature of the proposal. Following its passage, nearly every stakeholder praised the passage of the TICKET Act, as well.

We urge you to support HR 3950, as is, and report it out of committee as soon as possible.

⁴ House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Consumer Groups, Venues, and Artists Join to Support the TICKET Act, December 14, 2024, <https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/consumer-groups-venues-and-artists-join-to-support-the-ticket-act-1>

⁵ Office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Energy and Commerce Leaders Hail HOUse Passage of the Bipartisan TICKET Act <https://schakowsky.house.gov/media/press-releases/energy-and-commerce-leaders-hail-house-passage-bipartisan-ticket-act>

Thank you for your consideration,

National Consumers League
American Consumer Institute Center for Citizen Research
California Low-Income Consumer Coalition
Consumer Action
Consumer Federations of America
Consumer Federation of California
Consumer Reports
Economic Action Maryland
Fan Freedom Project
The James Madison Institute
National Association of Consumer Advocates
NetChoice
Oregon Consumer Justice
Protect Ticket Rights
Sports Fans Coalition
Travelers United
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

cc: Members of the Senate Commerce Committee