

Hartford Stage
50 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103
TEL 860-525-5601 FAX 860-525-4420
www.hartfordstage.org

Michael Wilson, Artistic Director
Michael Stotts, Managing Director

Opposition to HB-05228, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALES OF EVENT TICKETS ON THE SECONDARY MARKET

Hartford Stage Company, an award winning and nationally recognized not-for-profit theatre located in Hartford, Connecticut, voices strong opposition to **HB-05228, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALES OF EVENT TICKETS ON THE SECONDARY MARKET.**

Though introduced as a well intended consumer protection, the net effect would be to limit entertainment choices for consumers and significantly hamper economic growth in our state.

If implemented, this bill would be the most restrictive legislation of its type to be enacted in any state in the nation. Significant negative outcomes to Connecticut include:

- **The hottest acts and most popular performers will bypass Connecticut rather than disclose how they choose to allocate their ticket resources to their fans.** Performers view this as a significant artist's rights issue and will demand the final say in how their ticket resources are allocated. While Hartford Stage typically produces its own work, and often exports it to New York and elsewhere in the country, our popular SummerStage series frequently features plays and performers from outside the state.
- **Consumers will have fewer entertainment choices.** With artists opting not to play in Connecticut, consumers will travel outside of our state to see their favorite shows, taking their significant economic spin-off activity generated for Connecticut merchants, hotels, restaurants and parking facilities to New York and Massachusetts.
- **Fewer acts touring in our state is bad for business.** Connecticut venues already struggle with intense and growing competition from larger surrounding markets. Our industry needs legislative enticements to help attract—not deter—performers from visiting our state.
- **Lost shows mean lost jobs, period.** Work for stagehands that staff many of the state's performance venues, including Hartford Stage, will sharply decline and jobs will be lost at a time of unprecedented economic uncertainty.
- **Venue reporting burdens are significant and the most restrictive of any state.** We and our not-for-profit venue colleagues have been particularly hard hit under current economic conditions. Many have endured significant staff furloughs and lay-offs, and no longer have the resources required to meet the unprecedented level of reporting this bill would mandate.

Connecticut is respected nationally for the steps it takes to support and protect our state's consumers. Though drafted with admirable aims, this bill would significantly damage Connecticut's already struggling entertainment industry and put us at the top of another list—the list of states that performers will bypass when routing their next tour. The negative impact will ripple through our state's economy—eliminating jobs in our industry, lessening consumer entertainment choices, and providing our neighbors in New York and Massachusetts with increased competitive advantage. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to this bill.



Michael Stotts
Managing Director



BOX OFFICE 860-527-5151