



March 5, 2015

Testimony in Support of Raised Bill No. 976 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE FAIR SALE OF TICKETS TO ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Submitted by Jay Mullarkey, Vice President, TicketNetwork

Senator Leone, Representative Baram, and members of the General Law Committee,

I urge your **support** of Raised Bill No. 976 because it directs Commissioner Harris and the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to study practices in the entertainment ticketing industry that hurt Connecticut's consumers. Such a study is an important first step toward establishing fair rules that protect consumers and fans from the venues, teams, and promoters that unreasonably and monopolistically restrict ticket sales.

The DCP's study should address, at a minimum, the following three questions:

Are Connecticut's season and subscription ticket holders better off if they are restricted from selling their tickets to an event they don't want to or can't attend?

Are Connecticut's consumers better off if they are denied access to the events they've bought tickets to, just because they didn't buy their tickets directly from the venue or team?

Are Connecticut's consumers better off if they can only buy tickets in a form that can't be easily transferred, when easily transferrable tickets are available and the transfer is feasible?

I'm confident that the DCP and Commissioner Harris will find that consumers are hurt when venues, teams, and promoters are allowed to impose unfair restrictions on how tickets are used and sold. More importantly, this committee and your colleagues in the General Assembly will learn the extent to which Connecticut's residents are burdened by these needless restrictions and see how easy and reasonable a common sense solution would be.

An event ticket should be an opportunity—the chance to attend a great performance, give a wonderful gift, or make what would have been a regular night memorable. When the ticket market is unfairly restricted, event tickets become burdens, hassles, and ruined potential. This committee, Commissioner Harris, and the DCP can help prevent that.

Please report Raised Bill No. 9776 favorably.

I welcome your questions. Please contact me at 860.644.4000 x1212 or at legal@ticketnetwork.com.

Jay Mullarkey

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