



Consumer Action/National Consumers League/Consumer Federation of America Letter

RE: Opposition to HB 2794

Dear Honorable Members of the Consumer Protection & Government Effectiveness Committee,

On behalf of Consumer Action, the National Consumers League, Consumer Federation of America, and the consumers we represent, we urge you to oppose HB 2794, legislation that will block consumers' access to a fair market for live event tickets. HB 2794, while presented as a consumer friendly piece of legislation, allows sports teams, venues and their preferred ticket seller (e.g. Ticketmaster) to monopolize the secondary ticket market and undermine consumer choice and competition.

Consumer Action has been a champion of underrepresented consumers nationwide since 1971. The National Consumers League (NCL) is America's pioneer consumer organization. Its mission is to protect and promote social and economic justice for consumers and workers in the United States and abroad. The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is an association of non-profit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

HB 2794 empowers ticket issuers such as Ticketmaster and the teams, venues and artists it does business with, forcing fans looking to resell unused tickets and professional resellers alike to only resell tickets on websites they are in business with.

Specifically, Section 1, Subsection 2, Paragraph B, states, "An admission ticket is counterfeit if a reseller that sells the admission ticket is not an authorized reseller," allowing event organizers to monopolize the resale market. It should also be known that some sports teams, often working with Ticketmaster, set an arbitrary price floor to raise ticket prices at the expense of consumers.

Since the disclosures, like requiring non-authorized resellers to have access to real time inventory and preventing non-authorized resellers from reselling a ticket before it has been released to the public does not apply to authorized resellers like Ticketmaster, the bill would do little to address actual consumer concerns and would do even less to prevent them from being taken advantage of. Instead, the bill would insure that Ticketmaster could

continue to take advantage of consumers with higher fees, less consumer choice, and poor customer services.

Consumer Action, NCL and CFA oppose HB 2794 and we strongly urge you to protect consumer rights by opposing this bill as well.

Sincerely,

Joe Ridout

Consumer Services Manager

Consumer Action

John D. Breyault

Vice President of Public Policy, Telecommunications
and Fraud

National Consumers League

Jack Gillis

Director of Public Affairs

Consumer Federation of America