

Submitter: Joseph Cawley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4024

Support for HB 4024 – Protecting Fans and Local Venues

Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the Committee:
My name is Joseph Cawley, and I represent the Alberta Rose Theatre, located in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 4024.

Speculative ticketing has become a persistent and growing problem for live entertainment venues. When resellers advertise and sell tickets they do not actually possess, the consequences fall not on the reseller, but on venues and their staff. Our teams are left to manage disputes at the gate, address understandably frustrated patrons, and absorb reputational harm when consumers believe the venue is responsible for the issue. For independent and community-based venues, this erosion of trust is especially damaging. We rely on strong relationships with our audiences, artists, and local communities. Speculative ticketing undermines those relationships, disrupts event operations, and creates confusion and frustration that are entirely outside of our control. HB 4024 offers a narrowly tailored, common-sense solution. By prohibiting the resale of tickets that a reseller does not have in actual or constructive possession, the bill targets deceptive practices without interfering with legitimate secondary resale markets. It provides clarity for consumers and stability for venues, while reinforcing fair and transparent ticketing practices. We respectfully urge your support of HB 4024 to protect both Oregon consumers and the local venues that contribute to our state's cultural and economic vitality.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joseph Cawley
Owner, Alberta Rose Theatre