



IN SUPPORT OF HB 701

February 16, 2024

Dear Chair Delegate Wilson, Vice Chair Delegate Crosby, Delegates Adams, Amprey, Arentz, Bofo, Charkoudian, Fennell, Fisher, Fletcher Harrison, Fraser-Hidalgo, Howard, Jackson, Johnson, Pippy, Pruski, Qi, Queen, Rogers, Rose, Turner, Valderrama and Wivell,

Fan Alliance is a national independent grassroots organization of fans dedicated to creating a sustainable music ecosystem **and we are in full support of HB 701.**

Ticketing reform is urgently needed – for both concert fans and artists. But it also needed for the ecosystem that makes their art possible – such as independent venues, promoters, and others in the performing arts world.

We hear from fans across the country about ticket pricing schemes that add hidden fees, that allow third party sellers to charge exorbitant prices for supposedly “sold out” concerts or for premium seats.

We hear from concert goers across the country about their experiences attempting to purchase tickets when a show is announced but are “crowded out” by ticket resellers who obviously have systems to buy up tickets quickly. This can only be possible if the resellers are using algorithms or other forms of “bots” to secure large numbers of tickets – only to resell them at highly inflated prices.

Music fans want to experience the music they love. But we also want the musicians we love to be able to sustain a decent lifestyle and for the venues that give them the space to share their art. We want our dollars to go those artists and venues, not siphoned off by tech-savvy and profit seeking secondary sellers.

HB 701 is the right approach. It has all the essential reforms and protections we need:

- transparency in ticket pricing,
- prohibiting ticket resellers to gouge Maryland consumers,
- banning the sale of “speculative” tickets, which are fake,
- ensuring that fans who can’t make an event are able to sell their tickets to other fans.

The current ticketing ecosystem is clearly broken. Maryland can play a leading role across the country in fixing it and protect artists, fans, and an entertainment experience we all desperately need. We urge your full support for this vital legislation.

Thank you for addressing this vital issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cohen", written over a horizontal line.

Donald Cohen
www.thefanalliance.org