

Good afternoon, my name is Penny Harrison and I'm here from Potomac, MD in support of HB0701. I am a lifetime Marylander who is here today as a live entertainment enthusiast. While it's our love of music that originally united us, this bill would transcend into every aspect of live entertainment. I wish I had more time before you today to share my countless stories about the frustration of trying to unsuccessfully purchase tickets for an event, only to resort to paying ridiculous resale prices that far exceed most Marylanders weekly wages. Or getting tickets in my cart to check-out and having my credit card declined because I forgot to calculate the hundreds of dollars in fees that were tacked on at the end setting me over my spending limit. Live entertainment has quickly become out of reach for most Marylanders. Who are we kidding... it's out of reach for most Americans. Which is a shame. What is most interesting about the hearings thus far is that the only people that have come forward opposing the passing of this bill, are the resale companies, or people that profit from reselling their tickets to consumers at inflated prices for their own gain. This bill should be passed for the majority of Marylanders, and not the few in the minority, which are only seeking to derail this bill so they may continue to abuse the system currently in place.

Sen Klobuchar, who is currently working with 5 other senators to pass the Fan First Act in the senate, has gone on record to say that she is open to placing a cap on the amount a ticket can be resold for. Kaitlyn Henrich, a spokesperson for Ticketmaster Corporate Affairs response was "If Congress could pass that law, across the entire industry, we'd all be on a level playing field." Sounds to me like Goliath has thrown the ball in your court. Now is the time for Maryland to pass this bill and take the lead for other states to follow, while we continue to wait the finding from the ongoing federal investigations by the US Senate and DOJ into these practices. It's up to you to pass this bill and show Ticketmaster (also known as LiveNation), and all of the resale sites that you didn't come to play ball, but to win one for the people of our state. It's time for you to set the precedence for what is acceptable by passing HB0701. Thank you for your time today.