



Testimony of Kirsten D'Souza
Coalitions Director
Chamber of Progress
Re: MD SB 539

February 14, 2024

ORAL TESTIMONY

Good afternoon Chair Beidle and members of the Committee:

My name is Kirsten D'Souza and I serve as the Coalitions Director for the Chamber of Progress, a tech industry coalition committed to ensuring all Americans benefit from technological innovation. Our corporate partners include companies like StubHub and Vivid Seats but our partners do not have a vote on or veto over our positions.

We urge your committee to oppose SB 539, which would limit the ability of consumers to resell their tickets and benefit dominant ticket selling companies like Ticketmaster.

We largely agree with the comments of consumer groups that have already spoken in opposition, and would like to add a few points of emphasis:

As drafted SB 539 would require disclosure for resales of a ticket, **including consumer contact information**, but not its original sale. This is an anticompetitive infringement of consumer privacy that serves to entrench the largest primary ticketers. In this context, disclosure requirements should uniformly apply to both primary ticket sellers and resellers.

SB 539 Tilts the Scale in Favor of Ticketmaster over Ticket-Buyers

At the core of consumer rights is the freedom to enjoy and utilize purchased property as the consumer deems fit, including the right and ability to resell that property.

SB 539 caps the fees that ticket resellers may charge, but does not similarly cap primary ticket sellers. This inherently favors the largest incumbent ticket sellers, like LiveNation/Ticketmaster.

While SB 539 surely has good intentions of protecting consumers, these anticompetitive price provisions may drive ticket resale into the black market where consumers have no protections whatsoever.

A better approach is to protect a consumer's right to transfer or resell a ticket that they have purchased. Many states have language guaranteeing this right including: Connecticut, Colorado, Illinois, New York,, and Virginia.

Accordingly, we encourage you to oppose SB 539.

Thank you,

Kirsten D'Souza
Coalitions Director