



Date: February 18, 2026

To: Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

From: Susan Evans McClure, Executive Director, Vermont Arts Council

Re: H.512 An act relating to the regulation of the event ticketing market

Thank you for having me again to address this important issue to Vermonters, Vermont's arts community, and the arts organizations that support Vermont's local economies.

I'll start with just a few examples I pulled from yesterday and today, lest you think this issue is solving itself while we debate in this committee room. Here are a range of examples from nationally known artists and smaller, more niche opportunities:

1. Lake Street Dive at Shelburne Museum on August 11, 2026: Tickets are available and on sale through the Higher Ground website for \$79.41. Tickets are for sale on StubHub from \$126 to \$1,035.
2. The Paramount is hosting "Dirty Dancing in Concert" on March 1, 2026: Tickets are available and on sale through the Paramount website for \$55. Tickets are for sale on StubHub from \$94-\$103.
3. The Flynn is hosting "Let's Sing Together- A Live Band Tribute to Taylor Swift" on March 5, 2026: Tickets are available and on sale for \$52-\$59. Tickets are for sale on Vivid Seats for \$79-\$86.
4. Noah Kahan's show coming up on at Fenway in July is fully sold out- and Fenway's website specifies "Tickets for these shows are non-transferable." On StubHub, tickets are selling for \$503 to over \$1,000, using phrases like "Only 2 left" and "Amazing" price. We emailed the Red Sox ticket office to ask how reselling these tickets would even work, they got back to us! Red Sox Ticket services said:
 - a. "Tickets for the upcoming Noah Kahan performances are designated as non-transferable. Because of this restriction, tickets cannot be transferred from one account to another. As a result, we are not able to confirm how third-party sellers intend to deliver tickets to buyers when they are listed on resale marketplaces. Tickets acquired outside of authorized platforms (Boston Red Sox and Live Nation) are done so at the buyer's own risk, and we cannot guarantee their validity or provide assistance with delivery issues that may arise."

Last week, you heard from Nathaniel Marrow, the Executive Director of the National Independent Talent Organization, and a Vermonter and musician. Nathaniel was able to access some information about a 2023 concert in Vermont by the musician Billy Strings at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex.

- **493** tickets resold
- Average Face Value **\$55**
- Average Resale Price **\$188.43**
- Vermont fans paid an extra **\$65,786** more than they should have all into resellers pockets

The numbers NITO has access to include only 60% of Stub Hub's data- so these numbers do not account for sales on SeatGeek, VividSeats, or others. The amount is most likely far higher than this.

I think it says something that every time you have had me in this seat this session, I have been able to find more and more different examples of how these predatory resale practices are hurting Vermonters and Vermont's economy.

We are fully in support of the changes proposed to H.512. And, while we believe that ending the deceptive practices online will have a meaningful impact, we also know that the price cap on resale tickets is by far the most impactful part of this legislation.

Instituting price caps will put guardrails on an unregulated market that is hurting Vermont consumers. It will put us in line with our colleagues in Maine and with many countries around the world, including Ireland and the UK. It will protect the small Vermont venues who are working hard every day to bring the joy and connection of the arts to towns across our state. It will protect Vermont consumers and their hard-earned money. And the thoughtful and careful language in this bill ensures that Vermont consumers can still resell their tickets in transparent, safe online markets.

When you make it illegal to re-sell a ticket for a grossly inflated price, you remove the incentive for bad actors to scam Vermonters. While no bill can end all of the bad practices of the internet, we know from colleagues in Maine and around the world that price caps work. Effective use of price caps means that our state government will be working at its highest and best use: protecting Vermonters, supporting our local economy, and creating a fair playing field for commerce to thrive.

Thank you for your belief in the power of the arts to drive our economy and to bring our communities together.