



**FSIC Statement of Support
October 24, 2025**

Mayor Bowser Is Right: Ditch the Ticketmaster Bailout to Make the Resale Act a True Social Justice Win



We commend Councilmember Charles Allen and the D.C. Council for holding a public hearing on the Resale Act and taking meaningful action to address ticket scalping. This issue has plagued the District for far too long. We support the bills' efforts to protect consumers by stopping speculative tickets (tickets that aren't yet owned by the lister) and addressing the predatory computer bot programs corporate brokers use to bulk buy tickets before ordinary District residents ever have a chance. However, we agree with Mayor Muriel Bowser that the Council needs to make a few key adjustments before the Resale Act can be considered a social justice win.

How We Got Here

The problem of wholly unaffordable events in the District began in 2010, when the Department of Justice approved the merger of Live Nation and Ticketmaster. These two companies, once direct competitors, were allowed to turn into a vertically integrated monopoly — one that now controls nearly every part of the live event ecosystem, from artist management and concert promotion to venue ownership and ticket sales.



How It Works Today

Through exclusive contracts, Live Nation-Ticketmaster now forces most major venues to sell tickets only through their monopoly. Venues that risk losing access to top tours and artists who object, may be locked out of major arenas. In D.C., this means fans have almost no alternatives. Service fees often exceed 25% of a ticket's face value — a cost that falls hardest on working families. Worse, Ticketmaster allows the automated computer bot programs, overseen by corporate brokers, to buy thousands of tickets within seconds of D.C. events going on sale. They then quickly resell these tickets at inflated prices on secondary markets. A recent Federal Trade Commission lawsuit found that Live Nation intentionally allows this because it enables the monopoly to cash in on fees twice: on the original sale and then on the resale.

The Accidental Gift to Ticketmaster in the Resale Act

These concerns about monopolization are why the D.C. Attorney General was right to sue the company. They are also why Mayor Bowser's administration is correct to sound the alarm about one provision of the Resale Act: its proposed 10% price cap on resale listings. This may sound good in theory, but the fact that Live Nation/Ticketmaster is pushing this idea should give all advocates of sound social justice policies reason to pause.

News reports suggest that Live Nation is the only ticketing giant with deep enough pockets to survive a price cap, meaning that if one is enacted, Live Nation's competition will cease to exist. The monopoly would gain control of the entire ticketing marketplace, leaving us completely at its mercy.

Break It Up, Don't Build It Bigger

The Live Nation/Ticketmaster monopoly is already bleeding District residents enough as it is. It should be broken up, not made bigger.

The D.C. Council's intent has always been to protect families, not to enrich monopolies. We commend the Council for making a good-faith effort to address this issue and look forward to working with its members to ensure the Resale Act fully protects D.C. consumers, restores fairness and competition, and keeps our city's culture accessible to every family.

Sincerely,

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