



Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

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Jay G. Wegimont
Town Council Member

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Dear **Chairman Abney** and **Members of the House Finance Committee**,

I'm writing today in **strong opposition** to **House Bill No. 6334**, which would authorize municipalities to impose a \$2 tax on tickets sold at venues seating 800 or more patrons. This proposal is a slap in the face to **working-class families** and the **local small businesses** that depend on accessible, community-driven events.

In South Kingstown, we're proud to support local venues and events that bring people together—from concerts at **the Ryan Center** and performances at **the Contemporary Theater Company** to community fundraisers, school showcases, and university-hosted events. These experiences aren't just entertainment—they are **economic drivers for our Main Streets, our restaurants, our shops, and the families who work in them.**

Adding a mandatory **\$2 fee per ticket punishes those who are simply trying to support their neighbors and enjoy Rhode Island's cultural life.** At a time when South County families are stretched thin by the rising cost of housing, groceries, and transportation, this legislation only adds to the burden. It also risks reducing attendance at events, directly hurting small businesses in places like Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Matunuck, where local foot traffic is everything.

We should be **encouraging people** to go out and support live music, theater, and sports—**not taxing them** for it. If Rhode Island wants to be seen as a destination for the arts and community life, this is the wrong message to send.

Please vote no on H-6334. This bill is out of step with the needs of South Kingstown and working families across Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Jay G. Wegimont

South Kingstown Town Councilor

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