

Amica Mutual Pavilion™

PROVIDENCE



May 15, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative Abney:

I am writing to respectfully express strong opposition to proposed legislation H6334, that would impose a tax on tickets for admission to large venues in Rhode Island. This legislation, if enacted, would have unintended but profoundly negative consequences for not only our primary tenants—the Providence Bruins and Providence College Men's Basketball, but also for live entertainment such as concerts, family shows, and other sporting events—as well as for the broader entertainment economy in Providence and the state as a whole.

The Providence Bruins and Providence College Men's Basketball are cornerstones of Rhode Island's sports culture and economic vitality. These teams attract hundreds of thousands of attendees annually, bringing substantial direct and indirect revenue to local businesses—including restaurants, hotels, retail shops, and parking facilities. A tax on ticket admissions would raise the cost for fans, potentially reducing attendance and dampening the positive economic ripple effect these events currently generate throughout our city and state.

Moreover, this legislation would significantly hinder our ability to attract and retain top-tier artists and entertainment acts. National touring artists and their agents evaluate the cost and profitability of playing in specific markets, and a ticket tax would place Rhode Island at a competitive disadvantage. Neighboring Massachusetts does not impose a similar tax on event admissions, and it is highly likely that agents will choose venues in that state instead, leading to lost opportunities and revenue for Rhode Island.

This legislation would ultimately result in fewer events, reduced tourism, job losses, and a diminished reputation for our state as an entertainment destination. We urge you to consider the broader economic consequences and work with fellow legislators to find alternative solutions that do not jeopardize the vibrancy of our live entertainment and sports industries.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and work collaboratively toward policies that support Rhode Island's economic health.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Lepore
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