



May 16, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Abney:

As Vice President and Director of Athletics at Providence College, I am writing to express my and the College's deep concern and strong opposition to H6334, legislation requested by the Providence City Council that would allow municipalities to impose a tax of up to two dollars (\$2.00) per ticket on admissions to large venues. This legislation, if enacted, would have unintended but profoundly negative consequences for Providence College, creating a disincentive for attendance, especially among families and fans with limited means. It could lead to reduced visitation and spending downtown, fewer jobs supported by event-driven commerce, and diminished returns for the city.

As you may know, in 2024, Providence College commissioned EConsult Solutions Inc. (ESI) to conduct an in-depth study assessing the economic and social impacts that the College's Division I Athletics program has on the city of Providence and the state of Rhode Island. The report focused on key areas including economic output, jobs supported, and tax revenues supported from Providence College Athletics, as well as from the thousands of visitors that travel to Providence and the state as a whole to enjoy Friars games and/or other affiliated events.

ESI concluded that Providence College Athletics is an economic engine for the state of Rhode Island with a total annual economic impact on the State of \$100.3 million. The study also concluded that the program creates and or supports some 630 jobs. In addition, the report concluded that the program's annual economic impact on the city of Providence is \$65.9 million and the creation and or support of 450 jobs. One sport in particular, PC's Men's Basketball, draws nearly 300,000 visitors annually and is responsible for \$24 million dollars annually in local economic impact supported by visitor spending. These are real dollars that help to bring 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 attendees, potentially reducing attendance and dampening the positive economic ripple effect these events currently generate throughout our city and state. Importantly, our student-athletes and staff are deeply engaged in the community. In 2024, they collectively contributed nearly 4,000 hours of community service in Providence's neighborhoods and schools. They tutor children, volunteer for the Special Olympics, participate in food and clothing drives, and serve as role models throughout our city.

As we compete in a new college landscape, our partnerships with the city, state and local businesses are critical as we look to continue to make the Amica Mutual Pavilion and all of our athletic facilities the best in the country. I urge you to consider the broader economic consequences of a tax on tickets, and work with fellow legislators to find alternative solutions to sustain long-term success and excellence in the sporting, arts, and entertainment industries. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide a copy of the ESI report for the Committee's review.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Napolillo
Vice President and Director of Athletics