



**Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee**  
**SB 154 Commercial Law - Interference With Internet Ticket Sales - Prohibition**  
**Position: Favorable**

January 22, 2014

The Honorable Thomas E. Middleton  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

Honorable Chair Middleton and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances fairness and justice for Maryland consumers through research, education, and advocacy. Our members include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

MCRC is writing in support of SB 154.

MCRC works to level the playing field for consumers. Today, the playing field is not level for Maryland residents purchasing a ticket for a concert or sporting event online. Ticket-buying software, or "bots," purchase hundreds of the best seats to concerts and sporting events within seconds of their going on sale online. Many of these tickets are then sold on the secondary market at inflated rates. This practice is unfair both to consumers and to ticketing agencies.

Eliminating this practice will provide consumers with a fair shot at purchasing the seat they want for concert and sporting events.

We support SB 154 and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Marceline White  
Executive Director