



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Daniel L. Squadron

# **Squadron Brings The Grammys to Senate Floor In Call to Fix Tix Law**

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Squadron Continues Long Song for Putting Fans Above Special Interests

## **Squadron Highlights Ticket Law Flaws With Grammy-Winning Songs Since '10**

**ALBANY** – Today, State Senator Daniel Squadron cited lyrics from Grammy-winning tracks since 2010 on the Senate floor ([video here](#)), in opposition to extending of New York’s status-quo broken ticket reselling law. Squadron has pushed for reforms to the state’s broken ticket reselling law to prioritize fans above special interests since its first (and now annual) extension in 2010, including introducing the Fans Against Inflated Rates for Tickets (FAIR Tickets) Act ([S.5178](#)) earlier this session (one pager attached).

Squadron’s FAIR Tickets Act would: create a more transparent marketplace by requiring face values on tickets, clear information on the number of tickets available, pricing, and other policies, and identification of secondary sellers; establish a fairer process for fans by instituting a 48-hour “cooling off period” before resale is permitted, ending speculative sales, and requiring clearer fee-disclosure; as well as stop profiteering on free or charity event tickets.

Squadron has previously cited musicians including Kanye West, Jay-Z, and Bruce Springsteen, as well as the Broadway musical “Hamilton” ([2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#) floor speeches).

**Squadron's [full floor speech](#) is below:**

Beginning in 2010, Albany began to extend this identical law that has benefitted brokers and special interests at the cost of fans. Here today, in 2017, the proposal is to do so yet again. That's unacceptable. Waiting from 2010 to today to get a fair shot at fairly priced tickets, to protect artists, and give consumers information -- that's not acceptable. 2010 was a long time ago.

Back in 2010, Beyoncé's anthem for "Single Ladies" won a Grammy. To paraphrase Bey:

*All the ticket brokers*

*(All the ticket brokers)*

*Now put your hands up*

*If you liked it cause you're profiteering on it*

*If you liked it cause you're profiteering on it*

*And you liked it cause you got cha-ching on it*

*If you liked it cause you're profiteering on it*

In 2011, the Grammys gave Lady Gaga a Best Female Pop Vocal Performance award. Meanwhile, Albany was caught up in our own "Bad Romance":

*Ah-ah-Albany*

*Ah-ah-Albany*

*Caught in a bad romance*

*Ah-ah-Albany*

*Ah-ah-Albany*

*Caught in a bad romance*

*They take your tickets and*

*They need your resales*

*Alb-any could write a bad romance*

*They want your tickets*

*All the brokers resale*

*Lobby-ists could write a bad romance*

*Ah-ah-Albany*

*Caught in a bad romance*

The following year (2012) brought us Adele's "Rolling in the Deep." Of course, it did not bring us any reforms to New York's ticket law:

*There's a fire, starting for our fans*

*Reaching a fever pitch, and it's bringing fans out the dark*

*Finally, they can see you crystal clear*

*Go 'head and sell them out and they'll lay your ship bare*

*Resellers have it all*

*Rolling in the cheap*

*They have Albany in thrall*

*Rolling in the deep*

2013's Grammys brought us Fun.'s "We Are Young." The State Senate kept delivering Fun. for special interests over fans:

*Toda-a-a-a--y*

*Law's not you-ung*

*So let's set the law on fire*

*We can learn brighter, than this nu-uhne*

In 2014, the Grammys honored Rihanna's album "Unapologetic" featuring the great song "Diamonds." The Senate delivered diamonds for deep money ticket resellers,

not fans:

*This time it's gotta end*

*This time it's gotta end*

*This time it's gotta end*

*Horrible to pass one more time*

2015 brought Pharrell Williams a Grammy -- Session ended with nothing for fans to be "Happy" about:

*Fans unhappy*

*Vote a no if you feel it's a law without a tooth*

*Fans unhappy*

*Vote a no if you feel like transparency is the truth*

*Fans unhappy*

*Vote a no if you know what happiness is to fans*

*Fans unhappy*

*Vote a no if you feel like that's what you wanna do*

Last year we had promise -- Attorney General Schneiderman's issued his report, Governor promised a ticket reselling working group, and Senator Lanza put forward a bill that had significant reforms in it, and we beat back bots bipartisinally together. The Grammy's awarded "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars. To fans, I sadly have a funky message from Albany:

*'Cause Alb'ny funk gon' give it to you*

*Don't believe me just watch uh*

*Don't believe me just watch uh*

*Don't believe me just watch*

*Won't fix it just botch*

*Hey, hey, hey, oh*

This year's choice is particularly fitting for any fan that feels like they're talking into an abyss. The Grammys honored "Hello" by Adele:

*Hello, it's me*

*I was wondering if after all these years you'd like to meet*

*To go over everything*

*They say that time's supposed to heal ya*

*But this law ain't done much healing*

*Hello, can you hear me?*

*I'm in NY Senate dreaming about what tix used to be*

*When we were younger*

*And free*

*I've forgotten how it felt before the world fell at lobbyists' feet*

*Hello from the other side*

*I must have spoke a thousand times*

*To tell you*

*I'm sorry*

*For everything that you've done*

*But when I call, you already seem to be spun*

*Hello from the outside*

*At least I can say that I've tried*

*To tell you*

*I'm sorry*

*You're breaking fan's hearts*

*But it don't matter*

*It clearly*

*Doesn't tear you apart*

*Anymore*

*Anymore*

Next year the Grammys come back to New York after 15 years. Real progress on this law would be music to every fan's ears, and something that we owe them. And if we do, I'll never drop lyrics on the floor again.

I vote no.

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Squadron recently [called for progress on fixing the law and a promised ticket reselling working group](#), along with musicians and managers. Previously, he has: pushed for [oversight hearings](#) on the law; worked with the Archdiocese of NY and Senator Schumer to denounce [profiteering from the Pope's New York visit](#); and urged ticket reselling websites to [remove charity event profiteering event listings](#). Last year, Squadron was instrumental in the [adoption of a law to crack down on illegal ticket purchasing "bots."](#)

###

## **related legislation**

**[2017-S5178](#)**

- 
- Introduced
    - - In Committee Assembly
      - In Committee Senate
    - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
      - On Floor Calendar Senate
    - - Passed Assembly
      - Passed Senate
  - Delivered to Governor
  - Signed By Governor

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[Relates to the resale of tickets to places of entertainment](#)

March 10, 2017

In Senate Committee [Investigations and Government Operations](#)

Sponsored by [Daniel L. Squadron](#)

Do you support this bill?