February 4, 2016

State Senator Andrew J. Lanza
188 State Street, Room 708
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Lanza:

We write to request that you conduct an oversight hearing on the State's ticket reselling laws, before considering renewal of the laws due to expire May 14th. It is clear that New York State has created a system that enriches brokers and profiteers at the expense of everyday fans. The Legislature must stand up to the special interests that have broken the market, and again allow everyday New Yorkers a fair shot at seeing events.

Last Thursday, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman released a report on ticket reselling in New York that raises serious concerns about our state's ticket laws, including that over 50% of tickets for big shows are never offered to the general public, resold tickets are being sold at an average of 49% above face-value, and that hundreds of thousands of tickets are purchased by illegal software. Critically, the report recommends that the Legislature "hold hearings on the subject of ticketing in New York."

Senator Squadron has long carried legislation that would provide for measures including price caps and industry transparency (S.192), both of which the Attorney General's report has endorsed, as well as legislation to ban charity ticket profiteering (S.571), co-sponsored by Senator Hoylman, who is the ranking Democrat on the Investigations and Government Operations Committee. As part of the push to prevent profiteering from not-for-profit events, last year Archbishop of New York Cardinal Dolan and United States Senator Schumer joined Senator Squadron and Assemblymember Cusick (A.8508) in condemning profiteering by resellers who listed free tickets for Pope Francis' visit for hundreds of dollars on resale sites.

In each of the last two years, there has been significant Senate opposition to extending the current law, after floor debate by Senator Squadron. In 2014, the chair of the Investigations and Government Operations Committee at the time, said on the Senate floor: "We're open to discussions, we're open to other things. But this bill is timely, and it has passed the Assembly. We need to keep it going, and we need to move it today. So I urge a yes vote, and we'll talk about amendments in the coming weeks."

It has been nearly 91 weeks since that commitment was made.

We are eager to work with you in your new role as Chair of the Investigations and Government Operations Committee. With your partnership, we can restore a fair shot for New Yorkers to

attend a concert, a game, or a historic event, like the Pope's visit. We hope you agree with us that the time has come to hold an oversight hearing on the current law, the Attorney General's report, and Senator Squadron's bills, to ensure that the Legislature does not again blindly renew a law that benefits very few at the cost of so many.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator, 26th District

Brad Hoylman
State Senator, 27th District