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April 25, 2016

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Mississippi Office of the Governor
550 High St,
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Governor Bryant,

As leaders in the public assembly and venue management industry, we write to urge the repeal of House Bill 1523.

The International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) represents public assembly venues from around the globe. IAVM's active members include managers and senior executives from auditorium, arenas, convention centers, exhibit halls, stadiums, performing arts centers, university complexes, and amphitheatres.

Member venues represent huge expenditures of public and private funds. They attract millions of patrons to an astonishing variety of events from football to basketball, baseball to hockey, from rock concerts to conventions, conferences to ballets...the list is almost endless.

Our industry's success is rooted in the diversity of the individuals who we host in our venues and destinations around the world daily. From college campuses to urban centers, in performing arts arenas and convention centers, our attendees come together to share experiences, learn from each other, build community and advance commerce. It is the lifeblood of our industry.

HB 1523 is not a bill that reflects the values of our industry nor do we believe it serves the best interests of our members or those we welcome into our venues.

We strongly urge you and the leadership of Mississippi legislature to repeal this divisive law.

Sincerely,

Karen Totaro, CFE
Chairman of the Board
International Association of Venue Managers