

HB264

Favorable

Delegate Wilson

Economic Matters Committee

Room 231, House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

February 6, 2023

Dear Delegate Wilson,

My name is Michele Westfall, and I'm the chair of the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council. My position on this bill is favorable.

I'm Deaf, but I am also a mother of two Deaf children. My children and I love to go to see captioned movies—but I cannot tell you how too many times our movie-viewing experience has been ruined by faulty captioning devices, and I also hate having to hand over my driver's license to movie theater staff just to get the captioning device (and leaving myself vulnerable to identity theft). I have taught my children that their access is important and should never be shortchanged or dismissed. We have the right to know what is being said on screen, and the failure of theaters to consistently provide captioning is akin to censorship. Do the right thing and ensure that we have access to movies! It's a no-brainer. I want to see this bill passed, and I would appreciate your support on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall

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