

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shelby Abdilah and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I support the open captioning bill because open captions are an example of universal design that not only provides access to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, but English language learners, autistic people, those with auditory processing issues and hearing people like me. I am able to more thoroughly enjoy and understand movies when using captions because I catch names or lines that may not be clearly spoken. I urge you to pass this bill and create universal accessibility for all moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah
shelby.abdilah@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shana Ahmad, and I am Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Shana Ahmad
shanakhan@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gerald W. Ahrens and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Ahrens
Jerry8ahrens@aol.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rita Ann Ahrens and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Rita Ann Ahrens
ritaahrens2@aol.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Olugbenga Aina and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Have lost count of how many times I accompanied family, especially my minor children, to uncaptioned movies they've wanted to see only to fall asleep and disturb the whole theatre with my snoring because ...not captioned. I've just paid good money for that.

In all seriousness, this is an equity issue.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Olugbenga Aina
bunmiaina@gmail.com

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 8, 2023

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Meghan Hazer Álvarez and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

My experience is ... this is important to me because people with audio impairments should be able to enjoy theater too, and also those who speak a first language other than English (like my husband, whose first language is Spanish) would be more able to enjoy movies at theaters. Captions, even for the same language spoken in the audio, help ESL folks differentiate the words in settings like a movie where there are a lot of different audio things going on that can obscure words for a non native speaker. It would be good for business too I'd imagine, as we usually watch movies at home so we can use English subtitles and he can enjoy it with me (When movies are in Spanish, I opt for Spanish-speaking subtitles for the same reason). I'm sure there are others like us in Baltimore. This seems like a win win , and I'm hoping to see it so we can more often support our local theaters!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Meghan Hazer Álvarez
meghan.hazer@baltimorecity.gov

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jill Anca, and I am DeafBlind. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Jill Anca
jilanca65@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Samuela Ansah and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Samuela Ansah
SamuelaA@DisabilityRightsMD.Org

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Stella Antonio, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I want the bill to be equal for all to enjoy and watch movies anytime and anywhere accessible is available.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Stella Antonio
Scorpiostar1109@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Larisa Aranbayeva and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Larisa Aranbayeva
larisa.aran@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shivani Arya and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Since I watched the open-captioned movie at the movie theaters, I saw lots of moviegoers learning to read English or foreign languages and impressively communicating with peers. It indeed benefits improving general literacy. I think open captioning in theaters is more user-friendly than personal captioning technology. Open Captioning at movie theaters should let deaf and hard of hearing people enjoy movies the same way as hearing people do. I remember watching the on-screen captioned Oscar-winning movie "CODA" made me support this bill for more accessible theater experiences. My kid and her friends, who are not deaf, said open captioning is more healthier for everyone because it increases comprehensive skills including reading skills and writing skills.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Shivani Arya
rgf123@hotmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Clara Asumadu and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Clara Asumadu
clara.asumadu1@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Cheyenne Atkins and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

As a sign language interpreter, it is imperative that communication access be accessible for all moviegoers including those that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Cheyenne Atkins
Cheyenneatkins.grant@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Helen Avner and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Helen Avner
helen@helenrubin.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Trudi Baer and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Accessibility equality for deaf people going to movie theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Trudi Baer
baers4d56@verizon.net

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Carol Baker and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Carol Baker
Canport88@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jenny Ballard and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I want to be able to watch any movie at any time. While I'm grateful for technology, it's hard watching movies with a device. I often have to stay still and quickly look at the screen to get a full view and then back at the captions. It's worse when you're crying during a movie! Open captions allow me to enjoy viewing to the fullest.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Jenny Ballard
jennyballard2@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Richard Ballard and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Richard Ballard
Rickballard33@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Heather Barrato and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Heather Barrato
hwbarrato@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Heather Beck and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Deaf Son who absolutely needs open captioning.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Heather Beck
Heathermariebeck.kjmom@gmail.com