

# **Baltimore MCD Letter In Support of SB400 Open Capt**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF EQUITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

DANA P. MOORE, Chief Equity Officer and Director  
7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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February 10, 2023

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Endorsement of SB 400 - Places of Public Accommodation - Places of  
Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning  
SB 400 - Hearing date: February 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm

Greetings,

The Baltimore City Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities was created as part of the Baltimore City Government in 1993. Since that time, it has reviewed programs and services for people with disabilities, identified barriers to programs and services available to people with disabilities, recommended ways to overcome those barriers, and made recommendations regarding existing and proposed legislation pertaining to people with disabilities.

The Commission strongly supports SB 400 – Open Captioning at Movie Theatres, which Delegate , Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson sponsor. This bill ensures that movie theaters provide two days of the week with all the movies being open captioning. Captioning benefits everyone, including deaf people, hard of hearing people, people who are learning English, and also children/adults who are learning to read. In addition, people with late hearing loss benefit from captioning!

We strongly urge you to support and vote to pass SB 400.

Very truly yours,

*Aloma Bouma*

Aloma Bouma, Chair  
The Baltimore City Mayor’s Commission  
on Disabilities

# **BCAD SB 400 Open Captioning Bill.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD) regarding **SB 400-Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. The Bill is to ensure that each movie theater is required to add onscreen captions on all movies at least two (2) times per week, in an effort to make moviegoing more accessible. Currently, the rule does not require movie theaters to add captions.

The BCAD Board strongly feels that the bill would benefit our citizens in the City of Baltimore of all ages and backgrounds. This includes children and adults learning to read, senior citizens, veterans, people with learning developmental disabilities and English language learners, the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing population.

In case you may not know, we are sharing the current information regarding accommodations to bring us on the same page. Our current federal law that was passed in 2017 requires movie theaters to provide accommodation devices to those with hearing loss, learning challenges, and second language learning. These accommodation devices come in two forms: glasses and the “cup holder” device. While it’s an improvement allowing accessibility, they still provide challenges for theater goers.

Often the accommodation devices fail to stay reliable for the entire movie. The captions or technical equipment would stop working or would have had the wrong set up that the captions were not the right one for the given movie. This can happen anytime during the movie. Often these malfunctions had to be resolved in person and this often means the moviegoer would have to depart the movie room and miss a good chunk of movie to get the issue resolved. I wonder if you or any member of your organization has experienced these frustrations. It has happened to me numerous times. It gets old when the problem repeats over and over.

Another issue we experience is that the equipment was not designed as a “one-size-fits-all.” The glasses are often too big for children. If a person already has a pair of glasses, then it’s a challenge to wear two glasses at the same time. The “cup holder” equipment is also awkward to use. The gooseneck has to be adjusted so the screen stays in its position. Sometimes, it’s necessary that we have to hold it manually. Some moviegoers would sit awkwardly to accommodate the view of the “cup holder” equipment and the big movie screen. Sometimes, a tall person would need to slouch until it comes to eye to eye with the equipment and the movie screen. Sometimes, a child would find it challenging to use the equipment when it’s higher than the child’s sitting height. Although the concept of having closed captions at a movie theater is great, the equipment doesn’t always suit everyone. We would like to see them going to movies without any issues and allow them to watch movies with pleasure and in comfort.

According to the articles from “Video Captions Benefit Everyone” written by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and “Does Closed Captioning Improve Reading and Literacy in Children” written by Elise Lewis in March of 2021, the study has shown that captioning proves to a greatly improve reading levels. It has shown to improve their reading speed and fluency, word knowledge, decoding, vocabulary acquisition, word recognition, reading comprehension and oral reading notes. Not only these benefits, captioning has helped to alleviate anxiety and stress. This has proven to also benefit children and English language learners.

The bill is designed with the flexibility in the intention of working with the larger audience to allow them to get comfortable with open captioning and to allow us to fully understand the entire movie. International countries have movies with subtitles and they are widely accepted. This bill is a win-win for all movie fans. It allows the entire population the same pleasure of watching movies at the theater. Also, our hearing members find it beneficial to them because of background noises and sometimes the speaker is not clear and they miss what they said, captioning helped them to catch up with what they were saying.

Having the law set in place would guarantee open captioned movies for all to benefit! We do not believe that open captioned movies will have a major negative impact on the community. Theaters also would not have a major negative impact. The theaters would not suffer over two open captioned movies per week. They will gain more as they will not need more staff to handle open captioning. This bill is a major win/win situation for all movie goers and theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacob Leffler".

Jacob Leffler  
President  
bcadeaf2020@gmail.com

# HCAD HB 400 Open Captioning Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 400 - Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD), I respectfully ask that you pass Senate Bill (SB) #400 which would allow deaf and hard-of-hearing Maryland citizens to have the equivalent and equitable experience so that they can enjoy the same movie experience as others.

The closed captioning devices have proven to be ineffective and in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many of us had negative experiences with these devices that make the screening less accessible.

I would like to remove the norm that the captions are only for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community because this is no longer true. Studies have shown that not only do they benefit the deaf and hard-of-hearing but they also benefit those who do not have hearing loss.

Many viewers find captions beneficial, particularly as the nature of video changes. The shows feature heavy accents that can be hard to understand. Many of our family members and friends, who are not deaf, have come to rely on captions. It has become their standard way of watching TV shows and movies. It adds information you wouldn't get without, e.g., the name or lyrics of a song being played, or a whispered comment by a character off-screen or in the crowd.

Additionally, captions are a very simple and effective way to help a child learn. Students can increase vocabulary, comprehension, and reading skills by watching programs with captions turned on. The captions help children learn sight words and reinforce reading skills. The same also applies to foreign speakers who are learning English but also it improves their listening comprehension, word recognition, and decoding skills.

The request to have all movie theaters provide at least two open-captioning screenings per week is the practical, reasonable way forward.

Please consider passing this bill so it becomes a permanent fixture of accessibility in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area for its expansive deaf and hard-of-hearing community as well as for other citizens without hearing loss.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elke Pieters', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Elke Pieters  
HCAD President



# Howard Autism SB 400 Open Captioning Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



TO: Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee  
FROM: Howard County Autism Society  
DATE: February 16, 2023  
RE: SB 400 - Letter of Support

The Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) would like to express its strong support for SB 400, a bill requiring open caption moving showings in theaters at least once a month.

More than a decade ago, one of our HCAS parents went to a movie here in Columbia, MD with her young Autistic daughter. When her daughter started to vocalize, stim and move about, the theater asked them to leave, saying they were disturbing other customers. Discouraged by the lack of access but determined with the lack of access, she reached out to the AMC Theater at Columbia Mall and asked if they would be willing to host sensory-friendly movies a few times a month at quieter times for local Autism families. AMC agreed to a test of the program at its Columbia location. As word spread and the program grew more popular, it spread to AMC theaters throughout the country, becoming a national model for inclusion that benefits thousands in the Autism community each year.

The issue addressed in SB 400, and its companion bill, HB 264, is a similar and one well worth our support to provide greater access and inclusion for all community members.

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 of 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.

Additionally, studies have shown that hearing loss is much more common among older adults, and 91% of adults with hearing loss are aged 50 and older.

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

Due to the device problems i.e. battery failure, lack of connectivity, or sporadic connectivity that leads to dropped dialogue, SB 400 will require all movie theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.



Maryland has an opportunity to take a leadership role nationally on this issue that will benefit both movie-goers and businesses. There will be waves of new people buying movie theatre tickets in Maryland. Gallaudet University is in the backyard, and folks from there will come to Maryland to enjoy watching movies. Also, this will not only benefit the Deaf but also everyone else with hearing loss, foreign speakers, etc.

THANK YOU for supporting SB 400!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Rosenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Rosenberg  
Executive Director

# **MD Works SB 400 Open Captioning Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



Dear Representative,

As CEO of Maryland Works, an organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities, I am writing to express my support for SB 400, a bill that would require all places of public accommodation that are motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and requiring that a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases at least two motion picture houses in the State to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week. Only delivering video products with closed captions places responsibility on the user to understand how to turn captions on. So that the user isn't faced with this burden, delivering video products with open captions would:

- Have universal design benefits for people other than those with hearing impairments (e.g., people whose first language is not English; people in noisy airports, health clubs, sports bars)
- Allow more individuals with hearing disabilities to access movie theatres and presentations
- Not require additional translation for speakers who have speech impairments

Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting SB 400 and the benefit that it would have on our community for those with and without disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Manzoni'.

Mary Manzoni  
CEO  
Maryland Works

**MSADA Letter SB400 for OC Senate 2023.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



February 10, 2023  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Apurva Varia, the President of Metro South Asian Deaf Association. I respectfully request that you support SB400 - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 our MSADA members who watches videos. More than 100 empirical studies documents show that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. In fact, captions are particularly beneficial to non-native person who can learn English quickly by watching the captions.

Our members often struggle with the current devices (Rear Window captioning system or special glasses) provided by the motion picture houses because the devices are not Deaf Friendly and often have to be adjusted throughout the movies. With that said, we believe that we should be offered the same experiences as hearing people when the movies include the captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Apurva", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Apurva Varia  
President of Metro South Asian Deaf Association (MSADA)  
[apuvarya@gmail.com](mailto:apuvarya@gmail.com)

# **PGCAD SB 400 Open Captioning Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV





February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Prince George's County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD) in Maryland would like to voice our strong support for SB 400. The legislation of SB 400 as currently written will help make Maryland a fair and more inclusive place by helping to ensure that deaf community attend the movie theaters that have equal access to open captioning service and have an enjoyable experience.

The key of this bill is to promote accessibility and ensure there are no barriers for everyone in the deaf community. Everyone knows that something must be done. Waiting any longer will only result in blocking access in movie theaters. We all must accept the obvious solution. Open captioning service at movie theaters is a simple solution for the deaf community.

In addition to moviegoers who are deaf and hard of hearing, open captioning benefits almost everyone, especially people watching movies in their non-native language, and children and adults learning to read. It's more important than ever that movies be inclusive for all.

We appreciate your attention to matters which have a direct bearing on the movie theaters industry.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis  
President  
[PGCAD2020@gmail.com](mailto:PGCAD2020@gmail.com)

**Brooks\_SB400.pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

**BENJAMIN BROOKS**  
*Legislative District 10*  
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 303  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3606 · 301-858-3606  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606  
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
Windsor Mill Office  
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B  
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244  
410-496-4037

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S400**  
**Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning**

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 16, 2023

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB400, Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning. The purpose of this bill is to make motion picture houses fair and equitable for our deaf, hard of hearing, and non-English or non-native English-speaking residents. SB400 would require motion picture houses to offer open captioning showings twice per week per film. Only motion picture houses that have two or more operational locations in the state would be subject to this regulation. Additionally, “special” showings, such as a film that will only be shown for one night, are not subject to this regulation. Through passing this bill, Maryland has the opportunity to become a national leader in communications accessibility.

Everyone is likely familiar with closed captioning, which is an option that you can find on your TV remote or video streaming services. Closed captioning requires a separate device to process and display captions and gives the user the option to turn it off. Open captioning is a separate copy of the film with embedded captions. These cannot be turned off.

Currently, motion picture houses are required to provide individual closed captioning devices in compliance with a 2016 ruling by the Department of Justice. Closed captioning devices commonly take the form of wearable glasses or handheld devices that can fit into cup holders. As you will hear from witnesses, these devices are uncomfortable, distracting, frequently out of synch, and often encounter technical issues. The setup and troubleshooting of these devices can cause users to miss crucial scenes of the movie. These challenges often lend themselves to a less than favorable movie experience.

Many theater owners worry that offering more frequent open captioning showings may inconvenience moviegoers with a preference against captions, but, given the plethora of screening options available to consumers, it is hard to imagine circumstances in which a hearing moviegoer would be forced into watching an open captioned film. The reverse of this situation is a much more common experience for our state’s 1.2 million deaf or hard of hearing residents.

Further, research conducted by the charity, StageTEXT, performed in November of 2021 suggests that “31% of people would go to more live events if more had captions on a screen in the venue. Among 18-25-year-olds, that figure was 45%, compared with 16% among those over 56. The new data reveals lockdown has shifted public opinion towards increased captioning for in real life events in the future. Nearly 46% said that the number of captioned performances and events was not enough, with 77% saying they are in favor of venues offering more captioned performances.” According to the study, the public is also “more likely to back venues offering such a service with almost 43% describing such a service as valuable and almost a third (28%) suggesting these venues deserve more funding from grant giving organizations and the government”.

Further, a Preply study, in the U.S. found that:

- 74% of viewers say subtitles help them comprehend the plot.
- 68% say subtitles help hold their attention on the screen.
- 55% say they often have to rewind after missing things said then they use subtitles.

As you will hear from our opponents, many theaters are already voluntarily offering open-captioned showings in areas where they feel there is a market. This means for some deaf or hard of hearing Marylanders; it may be nearly impossible to find an open-captioned showing at a convenient time. Furthermore, since it is not mandated, the parameters of these voluntary programs may change from time to time. SB400 limits the movie theater’s ability to arbitrarily alter these programs by providing clear guidance. This mandate eliminates uncertainties for both theaters and moviegoers.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks

**SB400 One Pager (4).pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

# SB 400

# Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

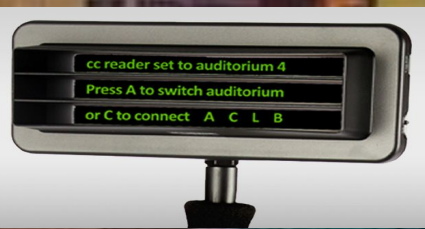
**There are over 1.2 million (19%) deaf or hard of hearing residents in Maryland**

*\*6.2 million people living in Maryland*

## Bill Summary:

The purpose of this bill is to make motion picture houses fair and equitable for our **deaf, hard of hearing, and non-English or non-native English-speaking** residents.

SB400 would require motion picture houses to **offer open captioning showings twice per week per film**. Only motion picture houses that have two or more operational locations in the state would be subject to this regulation (44 theaters). Additionally, "special" showings, such as a film that will only be shown for one night, are not subject to this regulation.



**Would you want to experience a movie through these?**

## What is the Cost?

- There is **no cost-out difference** between regular and open caption showings.
- By offering open caption showings, theaters could save costs on repairing closed captioning devices.
- 44 theaters would be required to show only two open captioned showings of a film in a week, but this change could benefit over 1.2 million Maryland residents
- More open captioned showings would **open theaters up to new audiences** that had previously avoided them due to lack of accessibility

**Why spend money on high tech closed captioning devices when open captioning is far easier?**

## Did you know?

- Open captioned showings have been **especially popular with senior citizens** in Hawaii - Speaker of Hawaii House of Representatives
- **Young people overwhelmingly prefer content with subtitles on**. The largest moviegoing demographic is 18-35 year olds
- 31% of **people would go to more live events if there were more captioning options available** - Stagertext Study

## What different types of captioning are there?

**Closed Captioning:** Optional captioning that can be turned on/ off by the user. This is the type of captioning present on your TV and streaming services.

**Open Captioning:** Captioning that is embedded in the film for all viewers to see and cannot be turned off. An open captioned film is a separate copy from the standard film.

## Who Benefits from Open Captions?

Being able to easily keep up with the dialogue on screen is a **benefit to more than just the deaf or hard of hearing**. Everyone has had that, "What did they say?" moment at a mumbled line.

Deaf, hard of hearing, English learner, veteran, senior, and regular audiences can benefit from open captioning.

## Why Change is Needed:

**"There's nothing like seeing a movie on the big screen!"**

Yet **deaf and hard of hearing audiences must experience their movie on a small screen**. The only current mandatory accommodations for these audiences are individual closed captioning devices, and **open captioned showings are currently offered only on a voluntary basis**.

These devices are uncomfortable, distracting, frequently out of synch, and often encounter technical issues. The setup and troubleshooting of these **devices cause users to miss crucial scenes of the movie**, making a less than favorable experience.

## Legislation in Other Places:

**Hawaii:** A theater company with more than two operational locations in the state shall offer two open captioned showings a week for every film that is offered with open captions.

**New York City:** Open-captioning must be offered for at least one-quarter of screenings of films that have four or more showings per week. At least half of open captioned showings for popular films should be at peak hours. Theaters must advertise all showings in the same manner.

**105-125.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sherry Arya Fernandes, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am deaf and married to my deaf husband. My strong languages are ISL (Indian sign language), Hindi and ASL (American sign language). English is not my strong language so I am learning English in the US which is my permanent home because we live in Maryland permanently. Education is very important to me so I need to read captions on any movie to help me understand English and improve my English skills. I was not happy with deaf devices such as sony glasses since I wear prescribed glasses, captiview (hard to look at the movie at the same time). I prefer open-captioning films.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sherry Arya Fernandes  
sherryaryafern@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sophia Fernandez, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sophia Fernandez  
sophie.fernandez2005@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joshua Finkle, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 go to the movie theatre at any time and be able to turn on the captions on the screen like I do it on my TV. I can't go with my hearing family or friends at any time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Finkle  
jfinkle33@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Naja Leitch Frelich, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

My family love to go to the movies together but often miss the ones with open captions because they are at times that are inconvenient to us. The closed caption devices are faulty. It would be best to have all movie theaters provide them at all times. By restricting us to see them at certain times and places our access is being restricted. We have a right to full access.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Naja Leitch Frelich  
naja@frelich.us

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sharon Gallaher, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sharon Gallaher  
sgallaher@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Donald Galloway and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Donald Galloway  
Dgalloway14@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Susan Gantz, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 don't understand the movie without open captions. We used to use other devices to read captions, but it wasn't reliable. Sometimes it was broken or not working properly. It was very frustrating for the deaf community and me.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Susan Gantz  
sue\_gantz@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joanna Gerhardt and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am continuously being deprived from the luxury of going to movies with my family because of no open captions. I don't normally attend movie theaters because of the lack of equal access. While caption view is available but not always in working order. The caption view device is small, sometimes the battery dies, not available because of other Deaf patrons using for the movie or does not work at all. Just makes the movie experience unpleasant for me. If open captions were readily available at any time of my choosing, that will be equal access.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Joanna Gerhardt  
Joanna.gerhardt77@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Susan Gill-Doleac, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please support open captioning on the screen which is more accessible to all individuals. The closed captioning devices are uncomfortable and sometimes do not work. Please pass the open captioning bill so that you can provide equal access to all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Susan Gill-Doleac  
susan.gill-doleac@gallaudet.edu



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kirstin Gill, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 would love to see this happen and be a requirement in all movie theaters! My husband, and I are both deaf and we can not simply enjoy watching a movie without closed captions. All of the movie theaters' devices are pretty much outdated, a nuisance and have had issues every time we went to see a movie. Our son has a unilateral hearing loss and misses a lot of the dialogues spoken. This should be mandated in the state of Maryland. Please make this a dream come true for all of us movie goers who are deaf and hard of hearing! Equal Access-Equal Rights!!!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Gill  
kirstin.gill@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Senoa Goehring, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Senoa Goehring  
Senoag@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Orlando Goncalves, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Orlando Goncalves  
ogoncalves1204@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary Frances Gosnell, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have problems understanding the spoken word.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Mary Frances Gosnell  
mgosnelldamascuslions@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lonnie R. Graddy, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lonnie R. Graddy  
randy.graddy@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Veronique Graves, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Veronique Graves  
veroniquegraves@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Wade Green, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Having the same thrill as everyone else when a desired movie premieres in theaters only to be disappointed when open captions aren't available really does affect me in general.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Wade Green  
wade.green@dcabda.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Greenwald, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Greenwald  
rmgreenwald72@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brian Greenwald, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Brian Greenwald  
bhgreenwald313@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rajena Guettler, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Rajena Guettler  
r.guettler3@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Avi Haimowitz and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Avi Haimowitz  
Avi.haimowitz@gmail.com

**126-146.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mencie Hairston and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 husband is deaf. We've been married for 43 years. It would be lovely to go on movie dates with him if open captions are available.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mencie Hairston  
mencie.hairston@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Najla Hall, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Najla Hall  
najlahall8614@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ruqayyah Hall and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Ruqayyah Hall  
hallruqayyah@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebekka Halseth, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We have friends and family who rely on captions. It matters a great deal to have the option of going out to the movies with them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rebekka Halseth  
Rebekka.Halseth@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Robert M. Hanson, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hanson  
robhanson71@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Erin C. Harrison and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am not Deaf and make use of captioning regularly! It helps to focus my attention, to catch parts I have missed, and to clarify strong accents. My niece has ADHD and the captions are a huge boon.

This small change makes a huge difference to the Deaf community, but benefits so many others. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Erin C. Harrison  
Opeia.smiling@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Fred Hartman, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 used to go to the movies using the devices however most of them were not working properly. Have not been going to the theaters ever since.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Fred Hartman  
fredbeckhart@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Frederic Hartman, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 member of the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing I keep hearing many unfortunate stories from the deaf community about the lack of Open Captioned movies. It's time for us to fight until the issues are solved.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Frederic Hartman  
FHartman6@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Thomas Hattaway, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hattaway  
tomhattaway@icloud.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karl Hedberg, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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'm for equality and I enjoy watching movies at the theatre like everyone.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Karl Hedberg  
sweducks@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara Hemstreet, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We need movie theaters to provide better access to information on the website.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hemstreet  
bahemstreet@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brendan Hlibok, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

My parents are both deaf and movies have always been a challenge for us as not all showings include captions and we have to work around the movie theatre's schedule which usually puts captions on the less desirable showings, giving a lower quality experience to my parents and I. They should be afforded the same opportunities to attend whatever showing they want, just like a hearing person can.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Brendan Hlibok  
brendanhlibok@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Charmaine Hlibok, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please make open captions available in all movie theaters- so movies can be accessible for everyone!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Hlibok  
charmainehlibok@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Greg Hlibok, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Every resident in Maryland, regardless of their status, is entitled to full and equal access to information, including in a movie theatre. This bill is long overdue. Although it does not confirm full access to all showings, it is a step forward in the right direction and demonstrates to others in the movie theatre community what it means to be inclusive, open captioning for all!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Greg Hlibok  
ghlibok@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lauren Ann Hlibok, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It is important to create accessibility for everyone with open captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ann Hlibok  
laurenhlibok@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rainer Hlibok, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 grew up with deaf parents, and the decision to go to the movie theaters was often governed by if the movie had captions or not. And when the movie didn't have captions, and we really wanted to go, my parents would have to sit through 2-3 hours of not being able to understand what was going on in the movie. This is not right, please caption showings of movies to make them more accessible to everyone (plus it makes it easier to understand even for hearing people when the movie is quiet or hard to understand). Make captioning the norm, and non-captioned movies the less frequent version (for those who truly do not like to watch movies with captions).

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rainer Hlibok  
Rainerhlibok@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Hollywood, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hollywood  
lisah31@verizon.net

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Hortie, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Hortie  
bethhortie@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Matthew Hourihan, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hourihan  
matthew5588@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is MariaReyes Hourihan, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

MariaReyes Hourihan  
reyeshourihan@gmail.com



**147-167.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sean Hourihan, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Equals access to everyone. Important for me to understand movies story.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sean Hourihan  
sfhourihan@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Constance Howard, and I am Hearing. I live in Kent County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Constance Howard  
cmehow@hotmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kenton Hoxie, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Antony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kenton Hoxie  
kentonh@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Xian Huang, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

How can I understand movies without Open Captioning? I need Open Captioning for my accessibility.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Xian Huang  
feiduel@hotmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brook Hubbard and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Brooks. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Brook Hubbard  
Bchubbard1976@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rena Hughes, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Rena Hughes  
renahughes\_1999@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is William Hughes, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It's difficult to read the captions through special devices. Far easier to read it on the screen itself.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
William Hughes  
hugheswilliam445@yahoo.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Thomas Hunt, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hunt  
Ichthus94117@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sarah Iwamoto, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open Captions are for all movie theaters for me and everyone for the accessibility.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sarah Iwamoto  
sarah.iwamoto2010@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is E. Lynn Jacobowitz and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open captions are not just for us Deaf people. They're excellent for children, 2nd language learners, elderly people with some hearing loss, military veterans who lost hearing during wars, people with language delays, multitaskers, & many more people. If you have sound, then turn them off & see what we all experience. Make captions equitable to sound.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

E. Lynn Jacobowitz  
drlynnjaco.aslstar@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alexander Jacobs and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alexander Jacobs  
jacobsaa@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alyssa Jennings and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Jennings  
Alyssajennings33@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jill  
Jilanca65@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kevin Johnson, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Johnson  
icebeg94@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rae Johnson, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Rae Johnson  
raejohnson21@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ashley Johnston and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Ashley Johnston  
Ashleydawn271@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tina Joyner, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It's high time to make some changes in our community. Since Governor Moore said it is time not to leave anyone behind, this is the one. Let's get things to change.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tina Joyner  
tina@joyner8.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Minar Kamdar, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Accessibility with an open caption is important for deaf people to understand after they read it in a movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Minar Kamdar  
mkamdar4@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Vinay Kammarchedu, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Vinay Kammarchedu  
vkc5120@psu.edu

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joanna Karp and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Joanna Karp  
JoLynn1964@hotmail.com

**168-188.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lizabeth Katz, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 and my two deaf children greatly benefited by watching the captions in the movies but only if they are set up which is inconvenient. Watching with open captions can greatly increase chances for people to understand and learn what is going on. Also when the captions are set up in the open both deaf and hearing people of all languages can benefit from watching the captions. Thank you for the support to make this happen.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Lizabeth Katz  
lkatz96@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brenda Kelly-Frey and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Captions are not just for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. Our grandkids watch TV programs with captions on all the time. I believe this has helped them to be well above their grade levels for reading.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kelly-Frey  
brendacfrey@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Arlene B. Kelly, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

EQUAL ACCESS for ALL!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Arlene B. Kelly  
arlenedst@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shari Kido, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

To have equity is to meet our needs as others and not lessen to enjoy the movie theatre at anytime! Open captions are ease to read on the screen rather than using awkward device and time consuming to level out.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shari Kido  
skido4asl@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sagar Kothari, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please provide on-screen open-captioning accessibility for all Marylanders!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sagar Kothari  
oceantetra@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Smita Kothari, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It was hard to read the closed captions at the theater so it's my wish is to always have open captions in all movie theaters. At some theaters the open captions are available at night which is unfair to us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Smita Kothari  
oceanpeacock2810@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sonja Lasry, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sonja Lasry  
Sonjalinth@msn.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alec Lawson and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alec Lawson  
a.jon.lowson@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tonya Lee, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tonya Lee  
tonya.josie.lee@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jacob Leffler and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jacob Leffler  
Jleffler24@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Yumeng Li, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please add an open captioning for all deaf people as well as hearing like captions, too.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Yumeng Li  
yumeng8817@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Gregurich Lindley, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have attended movies where I received a captioning device only to find out it is (and subsequently other available ones) not working. Since I cannot understand any movies without a device, I have to obtain a refund and leave the movie or wait until the next one to see if they work. That is not conducive on my part because I often have other plans afterwards. There have been situations where I have had to leave and come back because my hearing family or friends stayed to watch the movie I could not so they could be picked up.

Hearing people, on the other hand, do not have to worry about not being able to watch a movie at a convenient time. They simply can go and expect to have a great time.

I hope this bill will pass - I have had to leave about 10 movies in the last few years and I don't even go that often because it can be a hassle wondering if the device will work. It'd be wonderful to just go and see it open captioned - that way, the theater can see (and ensure) that it is working for everyone who goes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Amy Gregurich Lindley  
amyglindley3@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is James M. Lindsay, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open Caption is my hear!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

James M. Lindsay  
lindsayagk@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Neusy Lopez-Matta, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

The reason why I want Open Captioning is because it is not fair hearing people listening and deaf people have a hard time understanding what it means.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Neusy Lopez-Matta  
neusy-lopezmatta@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ricardo Lopez, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Twenty seven years have passed since I moved to Maryland and still not a lot of progress regarding open captioning in movie theaters.

I was born and raised in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. I never had any problems going to any movie theater with my family and deaf friends because subtitles in Spanish are provided as a standard service any time anywhere. After moving to DC for graduate school and work, I have to wait until my vacation time to go to PR and watch films in movie theaters with subtitles. We are in the 21st Century and captioning in movie theaters in Maryland should not be an option but a standard service.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Robert Lopez  
rilopi@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sylvia Love, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Love  
sylvia.love@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Laureen Lynch, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It will be more pleasurable to watch a film with open captioning without worrying about having anything on my face to read or on an armchair to read the closed captioning. Please give us an opportunity to watch and enjoy like others.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Laureen Lynch  
llynchryan@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sally MacDougall, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sally MacDougall  
sallymac08@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mark O. Mace, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Mace  
Mark.Mace@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Patricia Ann Mace, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ann Mace  
PattiLightie@gmail.com

**189-209.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lee Malatesta, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 almost never go to the movies because it's always a crapshoot as to whether theaters will have closed captioning devices and - if they do - if those devices will work correctly.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lee Malatesta  
lee\_malatesta@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michelle R. Malta, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 work within the deaf and hard of hearing community and see first hand how some of the current assistive technology DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK for consumers! Staff are unaware, not sure how it works, no idea how to resolve a situation. It's always a gamble whether they will have a fun movie experience or free vouchers because they weren't able to get the access. Open captions would make the movie going experience EQUITABLE 100% of the time! Hearing people who say it would negatively impact their movie going experience need to just sit down.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Malta  
michellemalta@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Reem Mansour, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have family members who are Deaf and always try to look for fun activities that we can do together. I come from a family filled with movie lovers and find it hard to go to cinemas with my Deaf family members because they don't understand the movie and need assistance. I feel like captions would be a great way to help Deaf individuals feel comfortable to book themselves a relaxing time at the cinema without having to worry about not getting the whole point of the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Reem Mansour  
reem773315@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Markel and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Amy Markel  
Amyjoy46@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sean Markel, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sean Markel  
seanmarkel8@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Morgan Marshall, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Having Open Captions at the movies makes my life easier and enjoyable to watch the movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Morgan Marshall  
morganmarshall20@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara Martin and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Barbara Martin  
Bjmartin626@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Robert Martin, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Robert Martin  
robertbmartin@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alain Martinos, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Always struggle with the closed caption devices.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alain Martinos  
alainmartinoss1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carla E. Masi, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 love large screen movies and would love to have open captioning to provide for Deaf community as well! Thank you.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Carla E Masi  
carlaemasi@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maya, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

While I can access sounds and some speech with my hearing aid, a majority of the time speech sounds like a foreign language. I rely heavily on captions so I can laugh and cry at the same time as hearing people. I pay the same price yet I have to sit in the theater wondering and guessing what was said. Due to this, I have not gone to the theater in years!!! Ask yourself is this equitable and fair??

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Maya  
MYgreentea68@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tyler Milstein McCafferty, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tyler Milstein McCafferty  
ty.mccafferty@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Bridget McCarthy and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Having open captioning in the movies will enhance the quality of family time for me and my hearing children. It always had been frustrating to come only to find out the captions were not working or the device that I had to use didn't work well - this ruined the family fun. I feel that open captioning will bring a peace of mind for all of us involved and also, it will reduce the hassle for the employees to scramble to find devices or trying to make the captions working.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Bridget McCarthy  
Bridget3mccarthy@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Candace McCullough, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please make movies accessible to Deaf people using open captioning in all theaters all the time. Other devices for closed captioning aren't adequately accessible.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Candace McCullough  
mcculloughphd@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Diana McCullough, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 need to understand what the actors are saying on the movie screen.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Diana McCullough  
mcculloughdiana@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelly McCully, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 Deaf person, I stopped going to the movie theaters because oftentimes, the captioning devices do not work. Waste of my money.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Shelly McCully  
shelly.mccully@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jimmy Lee Meadows and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Lee Meadows  
Mooeyturk1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cindy Meadows, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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'm near-sighted and use reading glasses (I'm over 50 years old) and cannot use cup-holder captions because I can't read them - I have to wear reading glasses and blurry on motion pictures. It's frustrating. Open-captions in motion pictures work remarkably for my entertainment moment. My hearing children said they love to read captions because about one fourth of the time they didn't hear some words being said - captions help them to hear specific words. I'm in favor of having open-captions movies - specific times, one night during the week and one or two times on Saturday/Sunday.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Cindy Meadows  
annajoeymom@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amanda Mercer and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 work with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in Prince George's County Public Schools and know that they have the right to have accessibility. Open captions would do just that.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mercer  
Amanda.Mercer@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kelsey Mitchell, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Mitchell  
kemomi@gmail.com

# **SB400\_ClosedCaptioning\_KennedyKrieger\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emily Arneson

Position: FAV





**DATE:** February 16, 2023                      **COMMITTEE:** Senate Judicial Proceedings  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 400  
**BILL TITLE:** Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning  
**POSITION:** Support

**Kennedy Krieger Institute supports Senate Bill 400 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

**Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill 400 would require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture.

**Background:**

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

**Rationale:**

Kennedy Krieger strongly supports SB400, which will ensure that all movie theaters in the state of Maryland will provide at least two open captioned movies per week (one during the week and one during the weekend). The open captioned movies will be hugely beneficial for all people of all ages, including children, adults, second language learners, people with reading challenges, and more. This legislation will ensure that all Marylanders have the pleasure of fully engaging in leisure activities in our communities.

**Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 400.**

# **Fred Hartman's Oral Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Fred Hartman

Position: FAV

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and the Committee My name is Fred Hartman. I am proudly representing our community in the great State of Maryland.

Please allow me to give you a brief history of the device problems that people are experiencing.

As you know, in the movie theaters, we often use these types of equipment: Sony captioning glasses and CaptiView devices that attach to your seat's cupholder. Yes, we experience issues with the devices so often that we have to deal with the manager or the guest desk to resolve the issue and we miss the portion of the movie.

Captions through glasses are small on the device which we have to focus on and can cause some pain and headache for people. Also, the glasses are not fit for all. People who wear glasses often say it is uncomfortable and/or heavy for them. Children cannot wear that because it is too big for them.

Another issue using this device, CaptiView, is that we often have to look up and down which is not a great experience for us. Not only that, this device doesn't stick in the cupholder properly. The most common problems among the devices are battery failure, lack of connectivity, or sporadic connectivity that leads to dropped dialogue. It is very frustrating for us because that is a potential violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To avoid that is to have open captioning movies in the movie theaters. That will allow us to enjoy the movie with the peace of having equal access.

Yes, the movie theaters often give us a free voucher or a refund when we experience an issue, but that does not satisfy us enough because other people will experience the same issue.

It should be noted that on Friday, January 20th of this year, Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin and other Sundance Film Festival jurors walked out of the premiere when they were provided with a malfunctioned closed captioning device.

There are times when people want to enjoy going to the movie theater with family and friends. Oftentimes, there are not enough closed-caption devices at the movie theater. So, part of the group has to sacrifice and not use the device.

The solution to that is having an Open Captioning Movie at the theater! We can enjoy it together as a family and friends and have a fun night!

Again, Open Captioning is for everyone and also benefits 6.2 million people in the State of Maryland. Not to mention but Gallaudet University is in our backyard and can attract them over to the State to watch the movie!

I am asking you to please pass this bill so that we all can enjoy the same fair access smoothly.

Thank you for listening to me and for your continued support of this important equal access bill.

# 1-20.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah  
shelby.abdilah@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Adeniyi Michael Adekoya, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 believe that movie theaters should make an effort to have accommodations for the deaf, blind, and hard of hearing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Adeniyi Michael Adekoya  
adekoya1020@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Twenty seven years have passed since I moved to Maryland and still not a lot of progress regarding open captioning in movie theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Shana Ahmad  
shanakhan@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Ahrens  
Jerry8ahrens@aol.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rita Ann Ahrens  
ritaahrens2@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Olugbenga Aina  
bunmiaina@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Meghan Hazer Álvarez  
meghan.hazer@baltimorecity.gov

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Samuela Ansah  
SamuelaA@DisabilityRightsMD.Org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Stella Antonio  
Scorpiostar1109@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Larisa Aranbayeva  
larisa.aran@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shivani Arya  
rgf123@hotmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Clara Asumadu  
clara.asumadu1@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Cheyenne Atkins  
Cheyenneatkins.grant@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Helen Avner  
helen@helenrubin.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Trudi Baer  
baers4d56@verizon.net

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Carol Baker  
Canport88@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Ballard  
jennyballard2@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Richard Ballard  
rickballard33@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Heather Barrato  
hwbaratto@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Deaf Son who absolutely needs open captioning.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Heather Beck  
Heathermariebeck.kjmom@gmail.com



## **21-41.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jason Begue and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 do not have same access what hearing people access: enjoy watch the movie without any additional device such as put screen in the cup holder and/or wear uncomfortable glasses to read the movable caption.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jason Begue  
Jsbeon7@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maureen Behrns, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Maureen Behrns  
aslnatutr64@gmail.com

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Suzi Behun, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open Captioning is great on the screen than wearing heavy caption glasses. Open Captioning is great for everyone to read the captions. It is great for any age to read the captions and helps them improve better in English.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Suzi Behun  
suzi@behun.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Anthony Benavente and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Anthony Benavente  
a-benaventesanchez@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Benevides and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 parent and advocate in the autism community, as well as a member of several commissions and workgroups related to disabilities, I fully support this proposed legislation. More than a dozen years ago, the Howard County Autism Society brought sensory-friendly movie events to AMC Columbia. This grew nationally at AMC Theatres whereby once a month, a sensory-friendly showing of a movie is offered. Lights are kept dim, sound is kept low, people are invited to move around if needed, and trailers are not shown (thereby reducing the wait time). This small effort on behalf of the theatre became a hallmark of AMC, and it enabled children, adults, and families of all abilities to enjoy going to the movies together. This legislation is similar in that it is making movie theatres accessible beyond physical accessibility. No longer will there be "separateness" when it comes to moviegoers who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who simply prefer captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Benevides  
Elizabethbenevides1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Annie Berke, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Annie Berke  
annie.berke@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Wayne Berke, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 rather have the open captioning than the "tools" are up to my face. Sometimes I see the characters in the "tools" are missing a lot in the show.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Wayne Berke  
wdbford65@aol.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Paul Berry Jr. and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

John Paul Berry Jr.  
jpberry@cruiseplanners.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is James Biesel, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

James Biesel  
jamesbiesel@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Linda Biskupiak, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Linda Biskupiak  
lindabiskupiak@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ann C. Black and I am DeafBlind. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 enjoy seeing movies, but I cannot see movies. If a movie is captioned, my deaf friends can interpret for me.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Ann C. Black  
annblack@comcast.net

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Daniella Blake-Aranbayeva, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Daniella Blake-Aranbayeva  
daniella.blakearanbayeva@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Janetta Blake-Aranbayeva, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Janetta Blake-Aranbayeva  
janetta.ba04@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sean Blake, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Sean Blake  
dcsblake@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Beverly Boateng and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Beverly Boateng  
bbbakery03@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jeanette Boice and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Boice  
M82jboice@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Bopp and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Amy Bopp  
Bopp56@gmail.com

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tiffany Bridgett, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 can't even go on movie dates with my dear boyfriend....

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Bridgett  
tiffany.bridgetr@gallaudet.edu

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Eleanor Brown, and I am DeafBlind. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Eleanor Brown  
eleanormd90@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

BT  
harleybat@aol.com

## **42-62.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Theresa Buckle, and I am Deaf. I live in Caroline County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Buckle  
tbdo015@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dorothy Lee Budar-Danoff, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have been familiar with the use of sign language since elementary school. My aunt taught sign to the deaf. The advent of closed captions made the world of tv and movies available to the deaf, the hard-of-hearing, and anyone with a hearing impairment. We have friends who are deaf and got used to using closed captioning in our own home. It can enhance the viewing pleasure for the hearing as well, for example, making clear dialogue that is hard to hear. We feel strongly that open captions will provide necessary equal access to movies for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, without harming and even enhancing the viewing pleasure of the hearing community. Thank you for your consideration, and your support.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Lee Budar-Danoff  
punahougirl81@gmail.com



Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 16, 2023

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jonathan Budar-Danoff, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We became friends with a family in our neighborhood where both parents were deaf and their child was hearing. Whenever they would visit, we would turn on Closed Captioning on the tv as a courtesy, and it wasn't long before that became our standard way of watching tv shows and movies -- I find that it adds information you wouldn't get without, e.g., the name or lyrics of a song being played, or a whispered comment by a character off-screen or in the crowd.

My wife had learned to sign when she was in grade school, and has become more fluent over the years. Our eldest child is currently taking ASL 102 at college in order to become more fluent.

I strongly believe that Open/Closed Captioning should be available for movie screenings as a way to allow Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to enjoy films along with those who are Hearing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Budar-Danoff  
jon.budardanoff@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heidi Burghardt and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am so sick and tired of being treated like a 2nd citizen. Here's the quote that I couldn't have said any better:

"Deaf people requesting captions is equivalent to hearing people requesting audio.

Imagine being denied access to audio every time, everywhere and every day."

~ L. Friedmann ~

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Heidi Burghardt  
HABurghardt@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stacy Lynn Burvant, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please add captions to all movies for inclusion of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Stacy Lynn Burvant  
sburvant@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brandie Callender and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Brandie Callender  
brpomplon@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Susan Carlin, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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, with the help of Disability Rights of Maryland and the MD Governor's office of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing services worked with Baltimore City Mayor's office and Charmtv.com to caption all programming closed captioned. All virtual medium providers should make programming accessible to everyone including Deaf and Hard-of-hearing people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Susan Carlin  
suecarli.61@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karen Carragher and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Karen Carragher  
carragherkaren@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Daniel Catinguil and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Daniel Catinguil  
Daniel.catinguil@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rich Ceruolo, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 a more inclusive environment for all persons living with disabilities, in all of life's many theatres. Inclusion and full participation in life is not optional and therefore all Maryland citizens should be included in all work, recreation, medical, legal and legislative settings and venues.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rich Ceruolo  
richceruolo@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is David Chidlow and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It's easy and educational for all to read the open caption and save money not to buy electronic devices or glasses to read closed captioning. Open captions will bring everyone to watch movies for better business.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

David Chidlow  
chidcabe@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Harold M. Clapp, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Be able to watch a movie whenever I am up to it at any time instead of looking at which movie with Open Captioning available at a certain time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Harold M. Clapp  
hmclapp7@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Clifton  
Emmnauel1-taylor@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marissa Clopper, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Marissa Clopper  
marissa.clopper@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Yael Coburn, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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'm a parent of a hard of hearing son.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Yael Coburn  
yael.isaac@hotmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joyce Cohen-Scher, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 husband is Deaf and it would be nice if we could have the same opportunity to enjoy a movie together.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Cohen-Scher  
joycecohenscher@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michelle Kanter Cohen, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

One of my parents, who is moving to Maryland later this year, is hard of hearing and can only enjoy films when there is captioning available. This bill would allow us to enjoy movies together. Without captions, movies aren't an activity that we can attend as a family, because it's very frustrating and disappointing not to be able to understand what's going on in a movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kanter Cohen  
michellek23@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Steven Cole, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We can watch it on the screen instead of wearing glasses for the closed caption which causes headache to use glasses and weighing heavy on my nose.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Steven Cole  
smcole52@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Déborah E. Colón-Martin, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Déborah E. Colón-Martin  
dec417@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Megan Conaghan, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 love to go see movies! Lets have captions on movies so deaf people enjoy the movie like hearing people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Megan Conaghan  
mjconaghan8@gmail.com

# 63-83.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rachel Birr Cordova, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 became hard of hearing this year because of brain tumors. I have gone on multiple occasions to watch movies with open captions. The closed caption glasses are bulky and uncomfortable. Open captions help me and my spouse, for whom English is a second language. Open captions hurt no one.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rachel Birr Cordova  
Rachelbirrcordova@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karina Cromwell, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 frequently go to a movie theater with caption goggles that did not work. I had to go back to customer service to exchange for different caption goggles. I ended up missing the beginning of the movie and on one occasion, I missed the whole movie because the goggles did not work for that specific movie. My husband is hearing, so he stayed and watched the movie with my son who is also hearing. I had to sit in the lobby and wait for the movie to end to head home with my family. The caption goggles are more often than not unreliable. I also do not like the attention that it attracts from other people in the movie theater. I wear eyeglasses, so the caption goggles feel uncomfortable on top of my eyeglasses. I want to watch a movie like a normal person with my hearing husband.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Karina Cromwell  
karinainmd@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tabatha Croney, and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have a lot of Deaf/HOH friends, family and everything in between. Being able to go to the movie theatre with them is something I've cherished since I was very young. Going with them hasn't always been the best experience. There have been multiple times where we go and the captioned devices don't work, they don't fit, and they're big and bulky. Open captioning allows for our community of hearing people to come together with Deaf/HOH people and celebrate, enjoy and cherish times together that we wouldn't normally have. Please, I beg for open captions!!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tabatha Croney  
tabathacroney@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sandra Crovo, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Free hand from devices and prefer open captioning on screen like television has.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sandra Crovo  
scrovo07@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rina A. D'Amore-Jezerski, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Rina A. D'Amore-Jezerski  
rina.damore@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kristin daCosta, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open Captions in movie theaters will enable me and my husband (deaf) to enjoy watching the movie **WITHOUT** the hassle and pain of using devices in our hands. Adjusting the devices frequently during the movie, eye strain, and problems with devices (i.e. not working or breaks down during the film), etc. We deserve and have the same rights as hearing patrons to enjoy the movies without the added technological burden on us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kristin daCosta  
dtp65silkyt10@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Christopher Daley and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Christopher Daley  
chrisnd@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Emma Danielson, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 go to the movies with my hearing daughters and be able to enjoy it with them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Emma Danielson  
edanielson84@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Daupin and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Amy Daupin  
amydaupgin@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Davis, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Frustrating when there is not enough open captions in movie theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis  
gdavis3115@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jerome Davis, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 want equal access for my Deaf wife in any movie theaters that provide open captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jerome Davis  
JDDavis14@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stephen De Muth and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Movies with open captioning are very beneficial for deaf moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Stephen De Muth  
muscles54va@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Blaise Delahoussaye, and I am DeafBlind. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Blaise Delahoussaye  
wolfrog65@yahoo.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Janet DeLap, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Going to a movie theater and paying good money (not to mention \$ popcorn & sodas) and not being able to know what's going on in the film does us Deafs a disservice. Hey - to be fair to ALL - show movies without sound and let people who hear pay for headphones.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Janet DeLap  
janedelap@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Reba Dellangelo, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Reba Dellangelo  
rebapsu@comcast.net

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Chris DeSomma, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Chris DeSomma  
cdesgt67@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Meredith DeSomma, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have 2 Deaf & Hard of Hearing lower elementary aged children who can't wear those closed-captioning glasses or use the CaptiView to be able to enjoy the movie with me as a family movie night time. Open Caption will allow us to really enjoy the movie while having a family quality time without any barriers, struggles, tense feelings between ourselves and movie employees with those devices.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Meredith DeSomma  
mdutchy81@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jamie Marie DeTurrís and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am an educator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I believe this bill will be so important to all of our students as they grow up to be included just like their peers and live a very productive life. Any bills we can pass to allow access to those who need it, is always a win win!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jamie Marie DeTurrís  
Jamie.deturris@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Devlin, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lisa Devlin  
lisadevlin520@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Allysa Dittmar and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Allysa Dittmar  
Allysa.dittmar@gmail.com

**84-104.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rosemary Dockter, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Dockter  
redockter@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leslie Dolan, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am a teacher of the Deaf/ Hard of hearing in Prince George's county. I believe that all theaters should provide open captioning for equal access!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Leslie Dolan  
lesliesped@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Doleac, and I am Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am a CODA (child of deaf adults) and an avid movie goer. The difference of seeing a movie with open captions for deaf people is outstanding. They are able to fully enjoy the movie and it does not take away from the hearing persons experience. I would love to be able to see a movie with my family and for them to enjoy it as much as I will.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Doleac  
doleacrebecca@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sarah Burton Doleac, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open captions help me understand everything better for my knowledge and education.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sarah Burton Doleac  
sarah.doleac@gallaudet.edu

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kathleen Moran Doskos and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have always enjoyed going to the open captioned movies with hearing people (my children, family, friends, colleagues, etc...) which have been severely limited for years. I would appreciate for your support for this SB 400 which would allow more connections between the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Hearing people to become a "universal" society.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Moran Doskos  
kmdoskos@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jennifer Drew, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Drew  
jendrewms@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sharon Duchesneau, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Please require open captions for all movies shown in Maryland. This is the best way to ensure access. Closed captioning devices are awkward, unreliable, and uncomfortable to use.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Duchesneau  
sharonduchesneau@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shane Patrick Dundas, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 my life to be at ease and without anxiety for full accessibility in movies. I don't want to wear or use any devices that hearing people don't use. It's not equitable. I want to be happy and relaxed watching a movie like hearing people - HOW??? By having fully accessible open captioning on the movie screen. It should be the norm at every corner of the earth. It's all about the attitude towards an equitable world we want to live in co-equally.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Shane Patrick Dundas  
spdundas@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gloria Dunham and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Gloria Dunham  
Gdunham15@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Yvonne Dunkle, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Dunkle  
ydunkle@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andrea Edwards and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Andrea Edwards  
Andrea.edwards@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gail Edwards and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have stopped going to movie theaters because their glasses weren't charged up almost every time at my extreme inconvenience. Open captioning should be mainstreamed anyway; hearing people, especially younger ones, are beginning to turn on and rely on captioning for variety of reasons. This should be the new norm and I can see it already becoming acceptable by the general public.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Gail Edwards  
gailcbsr@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ricky Edwards, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Ricky Edwards  
rickyechef@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is JoAnn Elliott and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

My deaf spouse and I would love to be able to go to the movies without the contraptions for closed captioning in the theaters. The "eyeglasses" hurt your nose and weigh down your own glasses to make it work. Captiview devices aren't without problems either: whether their batteries are charged (or, not,) whether the device neck holds up, whether it can be seen easily by shorter or taller people. The most even-handed solution is to have open captioning-- accessible, easy to locate in theaters, regularly! We would like to be theater-goers again.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Elliott  
Elliott.tilden@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is SallyAnn Emiliusand, I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

SallyAnn Emilius  
sabemils@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Diane Emmanuel and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Diane Emmanuel  
Diane.emman@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dillip Emmanuel and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Dillip Emmanuel  
dillipmemman@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Hollie Fallstone and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Hollie Fallstone  
hfallstone@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andrea A. Feldman, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

The first time that I saw captions was watching “One Day at a Time” back in the 1970s and I laughed so hard that I cried. I was able to join my family and friends in laughing at the same TV shows or movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Andrea A. Feldman  
alafeldman@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Roy Fernandes, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

First of all, I've been asking where open-captioned films are all the time. It is not right for me to travel far away to watch captioned films. It would be helpful if all MD movie theaters' movies are captioned without finding one movie at a specific location. Second, open captioned film is more helpful than deaf devices such as sony glasses, captiview, etc which doesn't work obviously according to many viewers. Third, it would help boost the film business if films are captioned because many people, including young generations will attend more than before. Hope this helps.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Roy Fernandes  
royfern@gmail.com

# **Jacob Leffler's Oral Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

Thank you Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and the Committee for the opportunity to allow us explain why this equal access bill is SO important. You will hear examples of how and why captioning benefits ALL of us- not just the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of the State of Maryland.

Having open captioning on the screen means everyone can enjoy the movie together with no separate devices needed for access. Currently, patrons need to continually adjust either the cupholder device or the very bulky glasses--even if they wear prescription glasses. Oftentimes, the equipment malfunctions frequently and the patron has to go to the theater lobby to get it replaced and pray that the replacement isn't broken either. That means missing a good portion of the movie, and it's no fun to hear your (hearing) companions talk about certain scenes you missed because of no access or having to take care of the broken equipment. I also don't need to add these are potential violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because of ineffective communication access with broken devices. Open captioning will reduce all of these issues and motivate consumers to patronize the movie theaters even more.

Captioning also benefits veterans and those later in life who lost their hearing. Captioning helps people who come to the US and Maryland to learn English. Captioning is also a useful tool for adults and children who are learning how to read and write. For hearing people dealing with background noises and inaudible dialogues, captioning is a lifesaver in catching up with the dialogue. This is the conception of equal access for all. All of us go to the theater and feel equal to others and enjoy the movie.

The National Association of Theater Owners said that movie theaters already are providing open captioning movies at theaters. It is great that movie theaters are doing it on a voluntary basis however, we need this bill to pass because we have seen that some theaters decide to decrease the number of movie theaters and not all locations provide it. Some people have to drive an hour or more just to watch a movie while there is a theater nearby. Voluntary basis also means that movie theaters can decide to provide open captioning movies during the week or not. With this bill, it will guarantee that there will be open captioning movies every week. Not having an open captioning movie every week does not give equal access.

I would love to see Maryland taking the lead in this national effort and pass the bill. There will be waves of new people buying movie theater tickets in Maryland. Gallaudet University is in the backyard, and folks from there will come to Maryland to enjoy watching movies. Let's make Maryland a great example of being a wonderful state for everyone and vote in favor of this bill!

Thank you for your continued support on this equal access bill!

**ALDA SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

The Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA) strongly supports Open Captioning Bill in the Senate, SB 400, a modest but important step towards making movies truly accessible to tens of thousands of deaf and hard of hearing people in Maryland.

ALDA is a nationwide non-profit organization. It originally focused on people who lost some or all of their hearing after acquiring speech, but now includes everyone with less-than-normal hearing, including members who have been deaf since birth, as well as members who communicate orally and use cochlear implants or hearing aids. ALDA has been actively involved in making movies accessible to its constituents and other people with similar needs.

In 2016, the federal Department of Justice adopted regulations requiring movie theaters to offer closed captioning (CC), in which dialogue and other aural information is put into written form and displayed on individuals viewing devices for every showing of every movie distributed with captions. The regulations were intended to codify results that had been obtained through litigation, much of which involved ALDA as an organization.

While CC is a huge step forward, it is not an optimal solution either for deaf and hard of hearing patrons or for the theaters. The viewing devices can be cumbersome and conspicuous. Checking those devices out and back in can be a hassle, and some theaters require users to leave a drivers' license or some other form of ID. Some of the devices rest in the cup-holders, leaving users with no place to put their drinks. Captioning glasses are heavy and uncomfortable to wear. The theaters don't like the devices much better. The devices need maintenance, and personnel must know how to use them. Devices do break down, and are expensive to replace. Malfunctions create unhappy patrons and divert theater attendants from revenue-generating other duties like selling tickets and refreshments.

Open-captioned (OC) movies solve most if not all of those problems. The patrons buy a ticket, go into the auditorium and take their seats, with hands free to carry drinks and popcorn. The theater simply selects the open-captioned version on the digital server – the modern equivalent of a projector – and the captions appear on the screen for that showing only at no cost to the theater.

Theaters have expressed concern that hearing patrons may dislike open captions and avoid those showings, and indeed, modest attendance at individual OC showings seems to support that argument. However, a typical movie is shown 31 times per week in each auditorium, where it is playing. People who wish to avoid OC can simply go to a different showing, in which case, the theater loses no money. On the other hand, some of the people at the OC showing might otherwise not be at the theater at all, meaning that patronage, however modest it might be, is all new revenue.



While movie theaters in general are facing enormous financial pressures, there is no hard evidence that modest OC mandates are a problem. Hawaii adopted a statewide OC mandate identical to Open Captioning SB 400 in 2015, passed a watered-down extension in 2017, then restored the original mandate in 2019 and made it permanent when the theater owners failed to persuade the legislature that it had been harmful. New York City adopted a robust OC ordinance in 2021 requiring 4 OC showings per week of most movies and specifying that some of those showings must occur during prime weekend and weeknight viewing hours. The theaters were invited to amass data on the impact that ordinance had on aggregate attendance if they thought the requirement should be reconsidered, but have not done so.

The only serious attempt to assess the impact of scheduled OC showings on aggregate attendance occurred in the District of Columbia in 2019. A proposed ordinance there would have required that at least 12% of all showings of each movie be OC, meaning essentially four OC showings per week of each movie in each of the auditoriums where the movie was being shown. The National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) engaged Ernst & Young to assess the financial impact. E&Y developed a model to predict attendance based a number of variables like showtime and type of movie.

One thing E&Y examined was “paired” showings, where the same movie was being shown in two auditoriums within an hour of each other, one showing with OC and one showing without. Consistent with prior data, attendance at the OC showing was lower than was predicted, and lower than at the non-OC showing of the same movie. However, the attendance at the paired non-OC showing not only exceeded predictions, but did so by a margin greater than the shortfall at the OC showings. That study – cut short by covid closures – suggested that the impact on aggregate attendance was positive, not negative. People who wanted to avoid OC showings found another showing to attend, some people at the OC showings wouldn’t have been in the theater otherwise.

Open Captioning Bill SB 400 is a modest proposal, but it is a step in the right direction. ALDA urges its adoption.

Laura Sinclair, ALDA President

For further information, contact John Waldo, ALDA Advocacy Committee Chair,  
[johnfwaldo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfwaldo@hotmail.com).

**DRM SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

**SB 400: PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION –  
MOTION PICTURE HOUSES – CAPTIONING  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
02/08/2023 House Hearing/ 02/16/2023 Senate Hearing  
POSITION: SUPPORT**

Thank you to the Chair and Committee Members, for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 400: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning. Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the federally designated Protection and Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to improve community integration and access for people with disabilities living in Maryland.

SB 400 would require chain movie theaters in Maryland to provide two open-captioned showings of each film that is over 7 days past its original release date. AMC Theatres (franchised throughout Maryland) announced in late 2021 that it would start offering open-captioned showings. State laws requiring that movie theaters provide open captioning are increasingly common throughout the nation. New York’s City Council passed a bill, which went into effect on January 15, 2022, that requires all movie theaters to offer 25% of all showings to be open-captioned.<sup>1</sup> Comparatively, Maryland’s approach is more cautious, but makes it easier for movie theaters to comply. Open captioning will also benefit seniors with moderate age-related hearing loss, children learning to read, and immigrants for whom English is a second language.

Although Title III “Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities” of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law over 30 years ago, movie theater patrons with disabilities still have not yet achieved equal enjoyment of this public accommodation. The applicable law under 28 CFR § 36.202(b) states:

“A public accommodation shall not afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4601879&GUID=D699DDAA-933A-47AF-8645-9205878F762D>

Pursuant to a Final Rule issued in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Justice, movie theaters must provide captioning technology to patrons with disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

When this Final Rule was issued, Deaf and hard of hearing individuals won the novel right to enjoy this public pastime. Most often, closed captioning is offered. Time has shown that closed captioning cannot function as the sole auxiliary aid available to customers with disabilities. Closed captioning devices provided to movie theater guests often do not function as promised, causing the customer to miss essential dialogue as their device is repaired or replaced. The movie theater may “meet its obligation to provide captioning... through any technology so long as that technology provides communication as effective as that provided to movie patrons without disabilities.”<sup>3</sup> Since communication through a closed captioning device is unreliable at best, a movie theater may choose to “use open movie captioning as an alternative to complying with the requirements.”<sup>4</sup> Maryland should join the cadre of states implementing similar disability rights legislation, in the interest of compliance with Title III of the ADA.

**For these reasons, DRM supports Senate Bill 400.** If you have any questions regarding DRM’s testimony, please contact me using the information in my signature below. I appreciate the Committee’s time and consideration in reviewing my testimony.

Respectfully,

Audrey Sellers

Advocate

Disability Rights Maryland, *formerly known as Maryland Disability Law Center*

1500 Union Avenue, Ste. 2000

Baltimore, MD 21211

410-727-6352 ext. 2601

[AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org](mailto:AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org)

---

<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie\\_rule.htm](https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie_rule.htm)

<sup>3</sup> 28 CFR § 36.303(d)(6)(i)

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at (d)(6)(ii)

# **MDAD Coalition SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) and with support from all the organizations that serve communities in the State of Maryland. We are asking you to support **SB 400** - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer open captioning for each screening of a motion picture all day two times per week. This will give the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community more access to watch the movies. Right now, the rule doesn't require the movie theater to provide the access.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who are children, adolescents, college students, adults and foreign people who are learning to read and write English. 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 D/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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and we appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Poston, President  
Maryland Association of the Deaf  
[President@mdad.tv](mailto:President@mdad.tv)

Jacob Leffler, President  
Baltimore City Association of the Deaf  
[bcadeaf2020@gmail.com](mailto:bcadeaf2020@gmail.com)

Gabrielle Davis, President  
Prince George County Association of the Deaf  
[PGCAD2020@gmail.com](mailto:PGCAD2020@gmail.com)

Apurva Varia, President  
Metro South Asian Deaf Association  
[president@msada-dc.org](mailto:president@msada-dc.org)

Sean Markel, President  
Maryland School for the Deaf  
Alumni Association  
[seanmarkel8@gmail.com](mailto:seanmarkel8@gmail.com)

Amy Crumrine and Lori Leal  
RiseHands  
[risehandscomm@gmail.com](mailto:risehandscomm@gmail.com)

Danilo Torres, President  
Latino Deaf Hard of Hearing  
Association Metropolitan D.C.  
[President@myldhh.org](mailto:President@myldhh.org)

Elke Pieters, President  
Howard County Association of the Deaf  
[epieters@gmail.com](mailto:epieters@gmail.com)

Christopher D. Johnson, President  
District of Columbia Area Black  
Deaf Advocates  
[President@dcabda.org](mailto:President@dcabda.org)

Sean Markel, State Representative  
Deaf Grassroots Movement  
[seanmarkel8@gmail.com](mailto:seanmarkel8@gmail.com)

Min Cho, President  
Greater Washington Asian Deaf Association  
[gwada.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:gwada.dmv@gmail.com)

Leslie Zinza, President  
Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens  
[detpep1948@gmail.com](mailto:detpep1948@gmail.com)

Jeffrey Buxbaum, President  
Washington Society of the Jewish  
[wsjd01@gmail.com](mailto:wsjd01@gmail.com)

Linda Stoltz, President  
Maryland Deaf Community Center  
[Linda.Stoltz@deafmdcc.org](mailto:Linda.Stoltz@deafmdcc.org)

**MDAD SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV





February 16, 2023

**President**

Kirsten Poston

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol

**Vice President**

Tina Joyner

Annapolis, MD 21401

**Secretary**

Jacob Leffler

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

**Treasurer**

The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) is a statewide organization that protects the interests of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Marylanders concerning accessibility and equity issues. We are advocating for the passage of the SB 400 sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks regarding movie theater captioning. There are approximately 1.2 million Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals living in the State of Maryland. Therefore, it is imperative that the State of Maryland take the lead in requiring movie theaters to provide on-screen captioning accessibility.

**Board Members**

Vikki Porter

Toyin Fasakin

Tisha Bera

Blaise Delahoussaye

Angela Rogers

Peter Un

NATO (National Association of Theatre Owners) has proven over and over that their promises and excuses have literally fallen on “deaf ears” in dictating when and where captioned movie technology should be shown based on their perception of movie going audiences. This is a practice that has proven to be problematic for many Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing patrons.

The current closed captioning (CC) technology in the State of Maryland movie theaters are inconvenient to have to return and give some people headaches having to move their heads up and down from screen to device and focusing on the device. These caption boxes or glasses either break down in the middle of a movie or the battery dies, necessitating Deaf, Hard of Hearing movie patrons having to leave the theater and missing part of the movie to get a replacement. This is not acceptable. With the broken equipment, it is not an effective way to have equal access as others.

Open Captioning (OC), in contrast, are better suited to movie enjoyment, less prone to failure and enable us to remain invisible and maintain our dignity, while also benefiting a wider segment of the public (children, seniors, the Deaf, those learning English as a second language, etc.).

We look forward to a favorable report on SB 400.

Thank you,

MDAD Board of Directors

**NAD SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



February 10, 2023

Dear Maryland Legislators:

Every day, people are able to go to theaters and watch any movie they want on a big screen. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) respectfully asks that you support the right of deaf and hard of hearing people to have the equivalent and equitable experience by passing Senate Bill 400, the Open Captioning Movies Bill. Based in Maryland, the NAD is the oldest national civil rights organization in the United States, having been founded in 1880 and overseen for the past 142 years by deaf and hard of hearing leaders. The NAD also has a state association affiliate in Maryland – the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD), and supports the efforts of MDAD to pass SB 400.

This bill is necessary to correct the inequity that all deaf and hard of hearing individuals currently face in movie theaters. The U.S. Department of Justice issued a Final Rule on November 21, 2016 that mandates movie theaters to provide closed captioning technology (see, [https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie\\_captioning\\_rule\\_page.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie_captioning_rule_page.html)). However, closed captioning technology in movie theaters are devices that deaf and hard of hearing people have had to borrow from the theater management to be able to view captioning through them while trying to watch a movie at the same time. In addition, such devices have been prone to malfunction during the course of movies due to breaking down, powering down, and signal disconnects. While the DOJ's 2016 Final Rule made it possible in theory for deaf and hard of hearing people to go to any movie theater and be able to watch practically any movie, these equipment failures were so common that going to the movies was fraught with disappointment rather than the equal access that was the idealized goal.

Ask any deaf or hard of hearing person who has gone to a movie and had to endure the theater's closed captioning equipment, and you will find that nearly all of them have experienced the failure of this equipment. And they will also tell you that they have complained practically every time to the theater involved. However, the theaters do not compile and share the data on those failures and complaints, but only offer the deaf or hard of hearing patrons with refunds, free popcorn, and other concessions. The deficiency of closed captioning devices for movie theaters was also newsworthy at the Sundance Festival this year (see, <https://people.com/movies/marlee-matlin-and-other-sundance-film-festival-jurors-walk-out-of-premiere-over-captioning-malfunction/>).

By contrast, open captioning is fully accessible simply because the captioning is turned on the movie itself. With open captioning, deaf and hard of hearing people do not need to depend on any specialized devices and can just enjoy movies along with everyone else. The open captioning function is simple to use now that all movie theaters use digital technology, and the open captions are easily turned on through such technology. While some movie theater chains have seen the writing on the wall and have started to provide open captioned showings at various theaters, the showings are not frequent enough and often are during inconvenient times. These movie theaters often only offer closed captioning technology during peak showings.

Such limitations were the impetus for the deaf and hard of hearing community to seek state and local level remedies, including in Maryland. The first successful legislation was by Hawaii in 2015 with a new open captioning law, HRS 489-9, which had to be restored in 2019 after theater owners watered down the legislation in 2017. New York City recently enacted its own open captioning requirement – NYC Administrative Code section 20-699.7. These legislative efforts are just the beginning, as there is a huge demand for open captioning.



According to research done by Johns Hopkins experts, there are at least 48 million people in the United States who are deaf or hard of hearing (see, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3564588/>). In Maryland alone, it is estimated that there are more than 1.2 million deaf and hard of hearing people (see, <https://odhh.maryland.gov/press-releases/featured-story/over-1-2-million-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-marylanders/>). This is a huge audience that needs access at movie theaters along with their families and friends.

Moreover, movie theaters in Maryland are failing to provide open captioning to a sufficient degree to ensure access to the latest movies. Too often, movie theaters make arbitrary decisions on which movies will be open captioned and how infrequent they will be shown. They will often show a very popular movie with open captioning only once during its run and do so on a day and time that is entirely inconvenient for anyone.

SB 400 would ensure that every covered movie theater provides at least two open captioning showings of each movie per week, and this is not unreasonable. Would the deaf and hard of hearing community be seeking open captioned showings of movies across the country if they were truly happy with closed captioned showings? The answer is obvious.

Deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders simply ask that we be able to watch movies at any time without dreading machine failures. Please pass SB 400 to make that possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.A. Rosenblum', is written over a white rectangular area.

Howard A. Rosenblum  
Chief Executive Officer

**PAC SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



February 8, 2023

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 400 / HB 264: Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

Members of the Maryland Senate's Judicial Proceedings Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 plus members fully support SB 400 / HB 264, and we proudly stand in support of our partners the Maryland Association of the Deaf.

We support any bill that improves access to all public settings for anyone living with a disability. Inclusion is not just an ideal, but should be a way of operating any Maryland business with inclusion in mind. At present, there are an estimated 1.2 Marylanders who are deaf, or living with a hearing impairment.

Closed captioning is a service that is commonly offered in many consumer products today. If one can easily set their home televisions to display closed captioning, why can't the movie house operators in Maryland do the same with their operations and make closed captions more common in their movie runs & daily screenings?

Inclusion and equity mean more ticket and concession sales for movie house operators. So why would any Maryland business want to exclude any paying patron from their operation? Especially 1.2 million who are deaf or hearing-impaired paying customers. That seems a bit counterproductive to servicing the community, and one's customer base. Especially as we all are trying to help the Movie industry recover from lagging ticket sales due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. We ask movie house operators to Include us in more of their daily operations and movie screenings.

We thank the Delegate for bringing forward such a positive and transformative piece of legislation. It truly will have a positive impact on all Maryland's citizens, and help to give them agency in all aspects of their daily lives.

We ask that the committee members to please return a favorable report, and to support SB 400 / HB 264. Thank you all for your time and consideration of our testimony.

Respectfully,

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | [richceruolo@gmail.com](mailto:richceruolo@gmail.com)

Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy Parent Advocacy Consortium

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>

**TDI SB 400.pdf**

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



*Shaping an Accessible World\**

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Since 1968 and in collaboration with its partners, Telecommunications for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (TDI), serves as a national leader in policy, advocacy, education, and innovation to foster full accessibility, equity, and inclusion in Information and Communications Technology. Our goal is to ensure that all citizens, including our deaf & hard of hearing community members, have full access to a wide array of programs and services offered by society. To this end, TDI is in **full support of Senate Bill (SB) 0400** pertaining to “Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning.”

TDI supports this bill to require a place of public accommodation that is a motion picture house to provide access to fully operational and well-maintained closed captioning technology for the general public for each screening of a motion picture that is produced and offered with closed captioning.

All for Access,

Jan Withers, Board President  
TDI

940 Thayer Ave #8009 :: Silver Spring, MD :: 20910





**LtrofSupport(2.16.23)-CaptioningSB400.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melissa Rosenberg

Position: FAV



TO: Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee  
FROM: Howard County Autism Society  
DATE: February 16, 2023  
RE: SB 400 - Letter of Support

The Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) would like to express its strong support for SB 400, a bill requiring open caption moving showings in theaters at least once a month.

More than a decade ago, one of our HCAS parents went to a movie here in Columbia, MD with her young Autistic daughter. When her daughter started to vocalize, stim and move about, the theater asked them to leave, saying they were disturbing other customers. Discouraged by the lack of access but determined with the lack of access, she reached out to the AMC Theater at Columbia Mall and asked if they would be willing to host sensory-friendly movies a few times a month at quieter times for local Autism families. AMC agreed to a test of the program at its Columbia location. As word spread and the program grew more popular, it spread to AMC theaters throughout the country, becoming a national model for inclusion that benefits thousands in the Autism community each year.

The issue addressed in SB 400, and its companion bill, HB 264, is a similar and one well worth our support to provide greater access and inclusion for all community members.

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 of 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.

Additionally, studies have shown that hearing loss is much more common among older adults, and 91% of adults with hearing loss are aged 50 and older.

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

Due to the device problems i.e. battery failure, lack of connectivity, or sporadic connectivity that leads to dropped dialogue, SB 400 will require all movie theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.



Maryland has an opportunity to take a leadership role nationally on this issue that will benefit both movie-goers and businesses. There will be waves of new people buying movie theatre tickets in Maryland. Gallaudet University is in the backyard, and folks from there will come to Maryland to enjoy watching movies. Also, this will not only benefit the Deaf but also everyone else with hearing loss, foreign speakers, etc.

THANK YOU for supporting SB 400!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Rosenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Rosenberg  
Executive Director

# 210-230.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Norma Moran, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

As a Deaf person growing up in the 80s and 90s, I remember going to the movie theatres with my hearing friends and relying on them to pass on the info to me. Or lipreading which was not always possible especially in action or comedy movies. Watching my first Open Captioned movie in Rochester, NY was a heaven-sent gift. Please make this gift possible for Maryland's Deaf/HH residents as well!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Norma Moran  
viva2nym@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cesar Morata, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Cesar Morata  
roturo75@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rhea Morgenstern, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 teach at Gallaudet University and have many Deaf and hard of hearing friends. I personally use captions for movies and TV at home. Open captions wild make a huge difference for all of us!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rhea Morgenstern  
rhea.morgenstern@gallaudet.edu



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Monica Morley, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Having Open Captions at the movies makes my life easier and enjoyable to watch the movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Monica Morley  
monicagmorley@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lydia Moro, and I am Hearing. I live in Harford County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Lydia Moro  
lydiamoro3@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shannon Morrison, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Morrison  
president@pc-rid.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is La Guettler, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have close friends who are hearing impaired. While there are some accommodations afforded to hearing impaired persons, enjoying a movie theater experience on the spur of the moment is not one of them.

Being able to enjoy a film for them takes much forethought and planning. A theater and film title has to be reserved in advance, other hearing impaired people have to be notified/coordinated, and the screening is usually done before noon so as not to disrupt the theater's advertised screening schedule.

I believe that hearing impaired people should have the freedom and flexibility to enjoy a movie theater experience like non-hearing impaired people. Passing this legislation would go a long way toward being more inclusive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Laura Moyer  
liuiza@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alicia Mullins, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have a gift card to the movie theater on route 40 but have not used it yet. What's holding me back is that open captioned movies are on during the hours I work. Many times a particular movie is only Open Captioning for one day. I would be more than happy to see a movie if there was a variety of times a movie is Open Captioning.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alicia Mullins  
mullins8520@comcast.net

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lawrence Musa, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Musa  
lawrence.musa@gallaudet.edu

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alyssa Myers and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Myers  
Alyssamyers521@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mark J. Myers, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Myers  
mjmmyers2012@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nat, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

My wife and our three kids are all Deaf. We immensely enjoy going to theaters to see films with open captions. Our biggest issue essentially is the inability to go see any movie at any time with open captions. We instead have to rely on theaters who set open captions by day, and we usually have to work around our schedule to be able to attend.

Although there's always the opportunity to use open caption devices, they are often clunky, unreliable and detract from the overall experience. Having words on the screen is immensely beneficial and hearing people can also benefit if they miss dialogue or particular sounds due to excessive movie noise.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Nat  
bladezone@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary O'Hara, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Mary O'Hara  
failte.molly@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Molly O'Hara, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Would like a fair chance to enjoy movies like all others folks.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Molly O'Hara  
failte.molly@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Oghenerukevwe-Ogra, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 would really like to have open captioning with accessibility everywhere I go.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Oghenerukevwe-Ogra  
oghenerukevwe-ogra@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gina A. Oliva and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Gina A. Oliva  
Gina.oliva09@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Olumoya and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 do not wish to share public "googles" in theaters to view "closed captioning". Please give us a healthy option to view captions as open captions without touching shared viewing equipment which are not being sanitized for public use.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

John Olumoya  
John.olumoya@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jill Owens Brick, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Jill Owens Brick  
jillaowens@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rita Ownes, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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'd like to attend any movie with open captions in my neighborhood anytime when it is available instead of picking one of few captioned movies in further areas.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rita Owens  
nkowens@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andrea Haas Panella and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Andrea Haas Panella  
amhpanella@gmail.com

**231-251.pdf**

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is YoungHae Park-Palabrica, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
YoungHae Park-Palabrica  
yhaepark.mobile@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Debra Patkin, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Debra Patkin  
debrajoy@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Larry Pearce, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Larry Pearce  
ravenclaw70@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carolyn Perry and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Perry  
Csperry1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kate Peters, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kate Peters  
kmppeters@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kristie Pichler, and I am Hearing. I live in Queen Anne's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We recently went to the movies in Easton, MD and we requested a caption device for our Hard of Hearing son. We both gave up when we weren't able to read the captions in the same vision plane as the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kristie Pichler  
kristie.pichler@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elke Pieters and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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'm in desire for the freedom of watching movies without needing to use devices and without guessing what the story plot was about if the devices weren't available. I want to be like those hearing people who have full access with great pleasure and relaxation during movies. I envy them. I wish for the same freedom.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Elke Pieters  
epieters@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Polansky and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

John Polansky  
John.polansky@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Vikki Porter, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Date nights would be a lot easier if I had more movie choices and better times to choose from.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Vikki Porter  
porter.vikki.l@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Theresa Posthuma, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Posthuma  
taposthuma@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dominique Poston, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Dominique Poston  
dposton1122@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Khadijah Poston, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Khadijah Poston  
pathtogreatness330@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is William G. Poston, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 wife is deaf, and this would be beneficial to her and the rest of the deaf community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

William G. Poston  
wgposton@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Khamonnie Powell and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Khamonnie Powell  
Khamonnie-powell@pcps.org



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Minerva Quigley-Gentner, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 whole family is deaf and it's hard to go to the movies and find a good movie available for all of us to watch whenever we would like. It's not fair and they should make it accessible to everyone. Also the captioning glasses devices suck.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Minerva Quigley-Gentner  
minveraqq@icloud.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kiana Quigley, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am a coda and come from a large deaf family and would love for them to all be able to enjoy going to the movies and not have to worry about if subtitles will be available for them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kiana Quigley  
kianaquigley2@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andrea Rabinwotiz and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Andrea Rabinwoitz  
Arabinwoitz615@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Luisa Ramirez and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Luisa Ramirez  
luisafrq@hotmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jamie Recht and I am DeafBlind. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jamie Recht  
jsrecht@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Scott Recht, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Scott Recht  
sarecht@gmail.com

**252-272.pdf**

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Rewolinski and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 love to watch the outside movies and eat the delicious popcorn, and once wearing the googled glasses that annoyed my nose. I stopped going there. When I was a college student in 1980, I used to go to foreign movies that had subtitles and I enjoyed it very much. Why can we have a normal life by going to movies like hearing would watch when the open- captions is there.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rewolinski  
brewolinski@facebook.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is MaryAnn Richmond, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We, the deaf and hard of hearing people, pay the same admission fee as the people who can hear to watch movies which do not give us access to voices spoken. That's not equitable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

MaryAnn Richmond  
deafmousie@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Rienzi, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am the Executive Director of Pathfinders for Autism, a statewide autism organization that serves over 17,000 Maryland residents each year. Individuals with autism utilize varied communication supports, including captioning. We support making movie theaters in the state accessible for all Maryland residents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rienzi  
rrienzi@pfamd.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maribel Robertson, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 husband, my son, and I are deaf. We love to go to the movie theater. It is much easier to view movies with open captions on the screen. The available caption allows the deaf community to enjoy watching movie captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Maribel Robertson  
maribelr03@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Adrianna Rocha, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Adrianna Rocha  
akalianx4@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gabriel Rubinstein, Attorney, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Gabriel Rubinstein, Attorney  
GabrielR@DisabilityRightsMD.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Millie Russo, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Millie Russo  
Akronite48@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Paula Schauer, Au.D., CCC-A and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Individuals experiencing hearing related disability should be provided equitable access to any source of entertainment. I support this bill as amplification and hearing assistive technology is not the only means hearing impaired and deaf individuals access. They should be afforded accurate captioning to support their enjoyment of movies presented in public venues.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Paula Schauer, Au.D., CCC-A  
paula.schauer@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Trina Schooley, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Trina Schooley  
trinaschooley@yahoo.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ruth Ann Schornstein, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Schornstein  
ascul@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Teri Scotton, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 don't like to watch movies with the device on - it hurts me a lot. I personally didn't feel equal.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Teri Scotton  
tmscotton@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kathleen Russell Setzer, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

It is always problematic to use equipment loaned by the movie theatre's. Some of the equipment does not work. Captions missing or too fast to read.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Russell Setzer  
katiersetzer@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dahlia Shaewitz, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 grew up with Deaf parents and have always had captioning for television and movies. I consider this a great universal design element that helps not only Deaf and hearing-impaired, but all people who want or need to read during movies. Many of my friends and neighbors have grown accustomed to using captions on TV all the time. It is a benefit for the millions of second language learners in our country as well--our state and county residents would greatly benefit from this option.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Dahlia Shaewitz  
dahlshae@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joshua Shaffner, and I am De. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Shaffner  
joshua.shaffner@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Patty Shaffner, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Patty Shaffner  
patty.shaffner@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Risa Shaw, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Risa Shaw  
shawsoni2@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Erin Sheehy, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have parents that have problems hearing and have taken ASL classes and have become more aware of ways we can be more accommodating.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Erin Sheehy  
evranish@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Samantha Simpson, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 was in touch with Regal Cinemas in the past and they have been difficult with accommodating us providing captions. They require ridiculous protocol to set it up like at least 10 people and at a certain time and day while it is inconvenient for many who have their own preferences.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Samantha Simpson  
scfsimpson1211@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Crystal Sisk and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Crystal Sisk  
Csisk1994@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Eric Sivak and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Eric Sivak  
epsivak@aol.com

## **273-293.pdf**

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Skaggs, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Captions are the eyes that the Deaf can navigate through the world. Captions are for everyone. They provide strong reading skills.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lisa Skaggs  
ljskaggs58@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Olivia Skinner, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 Open Caption because I need to understand what the movie is saying. One thing when I went to Movie theaters, it said they have open captions but when I went there, they didn't have any.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Olivia Skinner  
olivia-skinner@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marcus Smith, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Closed Caption is something I've always wished was a norm for movie goers who are deaf and hard of hearing. Caption glasses are cool but nothing beats watching a movie like everyone else and reading the captions as you watch a movie. Thank you for all your efforts and let's bring change!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Marcus Smith  
Bizzz2814@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Pauline Spanbauer, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We need open-caption films for better visibility without devices.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Pauline Spanbauer  
pes00@hotmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Veronica Davila Steele, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 suffered profound hearing loss in 2012 in my left ear and in 2014 lost all hearing in my right. I am a bi lateral Cochlear Implant recipient. This bill will go a long way to help me fill in the gaps I may miss hearing when watching movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Veronica Davila Steele  
veronicatwin1@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Larry Stephen, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

The American Sign Language Program and Club at Montgomery College desired to have Open Captioning films in Montgomery County. Also, there are hundreds of Deaf and hard of hearing populations residing in the county. We need to enjoy ourselves without technical difficulty and as the same as hearing people enjoy their audio (receptive).

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Larry Stephen  
mangoaslprofessor@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Candace Stone and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Candace Stone  
Stone.Candace@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Stone, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stone  
lizstone@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sherrie Ann Tarry, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Ann Tarry  
starryann74@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Chelly Tavss and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Chelly Tavss  
Chellyt84@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Fran Teplitz and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Fran Teplitz  
Fran\_teplitz@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Albert Tarpe, III and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Albert Tarpe, III  
Albert.tarpe3@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Catherine M. Thompson and I am Deaf. I live in Charles County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

We stopped going to movies because other devices are defective or no open captioned. I would like to take my husband for a date sometimes to get him out of the house. Avatar movie a few weeks ago couldn't provide open captioned due to malfunction and drove 41 miles for nothing. The hubby was discouraged as well as I. So can we move on and make this a success?

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Thompson  
Gibberd56@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Bonnie Tice, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Tice  
bonnietice@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Deanna Tilden and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Closed caption devices are painful to use while watching movies. Eyes are stressed on small words. Eyeballs are rotated a million times focusing between the big screen and the device.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Deanna Tilden  
Dtilden86@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Torsiello, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
John Torsiello  
johntorsiello@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Steve Towne, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 someone with a hearing loss, captioning is what I rely on so that I can enjoy any movie. The same can be said of many of my family and friends. Making captions available for all without the use of a separate device will benefit many in the community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Steve Towne  
stevetowne@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rami Traurig, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rami Traurig  
rami.traurig@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nina Truitt, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Nina Truitt  
dancin223@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Miles Tully, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Open Captioning helps deaf people to read and understand what the story is about.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Miles Tully  
mt19ufo@gmail.com



**294-311.pdf**

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Margaret Tyler, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Margaret Tyler  
4peggytyler@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Steve Tyler, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Steve Tyler  
tybiz4@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sandie Van Garrell, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 native county is Caroline and there are dire needs for captions in theatre. Easton it's as of Talbot County.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Sandie Van Garrell  
sandie2girls@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maureen van Stone, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am the director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute, which is Maryland's only University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. The MCDD's mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities through four core functions: preservice training and continuing education; community service and technical assistance; research and evaluation; and information dissemination.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Maureen van Stone  
vanstone@kennedykrieger.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Apurva Varia and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 love going to the movies; however, it pains me when I use the Sony glasses or rear display device because I had a hard time watching the captions when the devices are not reliable and/or not very user friendly. So that is why I prefer to see the captions that make my life much easier.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Apurva Varia  
apuvarya@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kalpana Varia and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Kalpana Varia  
Kalapu\_2@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Madan Vasishta, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Madan Vasishta  
madanv41@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dominic Vera, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Some movie theaters provide open caption films at only certain times and just only release on the first weekend. Thereafter, they no longer show in the movie theaters and they offer special equipment for captions that we are not pleased to use. I'd like to see the open caption films in the movie theater at any time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Dominic Vera  
domvera83@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Angela L. Vogt, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Angela L. Vogt  
angela.louise.49@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Julia Wallace and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Imagine when the new movie releases on the first day at the movie theatre, thousand hearing people show up the movie theatre on the first day and yet deaf people cannot show up on the first day due to no open caption. Deaf people deserve treatment and should be treated equally like hearing people. Enjoyment in everyday life is important to the majority of deaf people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Julia Wallace  
Julia.wallace@1970@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michele A. Walsh, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michele A. Walsh  
Walshm04@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Niki Warman, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am thankful we have a couple of movie theatres providing open captioning however it's on selected dates/selected movies. It would be nice to have ALL movies with open captioning ALL the time instead of trying to figure out schedule to see if I can make it to a particular movie/time/date. So, with this being said I fully support the open captioning bill for movie theatres.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Niki Warman  
niki.warman@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tedd Warshauer, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Hate to wear caption goggles or rear-view captions devices as I sometime missed part of action/picture of movies. The best captions are on screen so I can see the whole action/picture of the movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tedd Warshauer  
tgwarshauer@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary Thelma Weiner, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 that I love open captioned films but they are rarely available in our county. Deaf people are not the only ones benefiting from watching captioned films. Don't forget that many elderly people are losing their hearing. Captioned films help enhance reading and writing for everybody, not just the deaf. Captioned devices are not always reliable and very uncomfortable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mary Thelma Weiner  
lanierweiner@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stephen Weiner, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am tired of captioning equipment that does not work 90% of the time and after replacing equipment, I usually miss 50% of the movie and SOMETIMES I get a refund or even worse credit to use on later dates. I've stopped going to movies and only to when there's open caption, so I have missed out movies from my theater experience. Why bother going to movies!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Stephen Weiner  
sfweiner@gmail.com



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Janet Sue Weinstock, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Growing up I watched movies in the theater with my family and with a non signing date and I felt left out. No idea what the movies were all about. Now, I don't go out to the movies if they are not captioned. What a loss.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Janet Sue Weinstock  
janetweinstock13@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michele Westfall, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Many times, my movie-viewing experience has been ruined by faulty captioning equipment. I want to be able to simply walk into any movie theater and see open captions on the screen.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall  
fuzzyw5@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary Anne White, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 had adapted the Closed Captioned box since 1970 and watched most limited good films. I was born to a Deaf family. Deprived from all watching TV programs and still facing the public theater without captions, I hope this time will give us a chance to be at the movie theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann White  
maryannwhite47@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Aaron Whittington, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Whittington  
veganrok@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Whittington, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 am fortunate to go to a movie theatre to watch with Open Captioning that's available in my area so I am hopeful this law will help Maryland AND all states to have all movies with Open Captioning so everyone can enjoy watching it without worry.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Whittington  
rwhittington15@gmail.com

# 312-320.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shana Windle, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shana Windle  
shana.windle@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dave Windley, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

All people should be free to choose which movie to enjoy regardless of whether they are hearing, or deaf or are learning English as a second language.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Dave Windley  
terpdavew@comcast.net



February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Scott C. Wise, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

100% Open Captioning.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Wise  
owlscorpiowise@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heyao Xu, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SEE sounds.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Heyao Xu  
specialforshopping@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Allon Yomtov, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Hearing people who oppose this will eventually love this!!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Allon Yomtov  
allonyo31@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jo Ann Zarembka, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Would appreciate having an open caption everywhere.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Zarembka  
Zare4202@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tianqi Zhou, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have glasses. So it is more difficult for me if I want to watch a 3D movie and then wear captioning glasses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tianqi Zhou  
tinazitq@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leslie Jeanne Zinza, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Leslie Jeanne Zinza  
detpep1948@gmail.com

**SB400\_MACDHH\_Westfall\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michele Westfall

Position: FAV

SB400  
Favorable

Senator Smith  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 15, 2023

Dear Chair Smith,

My name is Michele Westfall, and I'm the chair of the Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MACDHH). MACDHH advises the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on matters and issues affecting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities.

You and your committee will hear about all the benefits of open captioning from other testimonies. You may even hear negative feedback from movie theatres and movie theatre organizations claiming that open captioning has hurt their sales. While I understand this country is all about profits and capitalism, this is the wrong way to look at open captioning. Open captioning was never intended to be a for-profit venture. Open captioning is equivalent of sound. In other words, if sound was not included with movies, no one would go to the movies. It is the same with open captioning. Open captioning ensures that everyone is able to understand the movie. Additionally, movie sales depend on movie theatres offering optimum dates and times for movie showings, and this often doesn't extend to open captioned movies. Open captioned movies are often shown at inconvenient dates and times, and this sets up open captions for failure. Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and others with hearing loss have just as full lives as hearing people do, and we cannot always attend an open captioned movie on Tuesday night at 5 p.m. or Sunday morning at 9 a.m. As a Deaf citizen and the chair of MACDHH who loves movies, I fully support this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall  
Chair, Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
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**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 400**

February 16, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Aloma Bouma, Chair, Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on Disabilities

**RE:** Senate Bill 400 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 400.

The Baltimore City Mayor's Commission (Commission) on Disabilities is a dedicated organization established with the goal of promoting accessibility and equality for individuals with disabilities. As part of our mission, we closely evaluate programs and services for individuals with disabilities and make recommendations for legislative solutions to improve their accessibility.

In light of this, the Commission wholeheartedly endorses SB 400, sponsored by Senator Brooks, which requires movie theaters to provide open captioning for two days a week. The provision of open captioning has numerous benefits, including increasing accessibility for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, as well as those who are learning English or reading. Additionally, the measure provides support for those with late hearing loss.

The BCA and the Commission believe that everyone should have access to accommodations to enjoy a full life, regardless of disability. For these reasons, we request a **favorable** report on SB400.

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## Video Captions Benefit Everyone

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### Abstract

Video captions, also known as same-language subtitles, benefit 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 D/deaf or hard of hearing. However, despite U.S. laws, which require captioning in most workplace and educational contexts, many video audiences and video creators are naïve about the legal mandate to caption, much less the empirical benefit of captions.

### Keywords

captions; video; second language; D/deaf; reading; literacy

### Introduction

Imagine a technique that can improve children’s reading skills (Linebarger, Piotrowski, & Greenwood, 2010), boost adolescents’ written and spoken vocabulary (Davey & Parkhill, 2012), increase college students’ attention to lectures (Steinfeld, 1998), enhance second-language learners’ pronunciation (Mitterer & McQueen, 2009), and raise literacy rates in developing countries (Kothari, Takeda, Joshi, & Pandey, 2002). The technique is simple: Display captions on videos.

Captions are like foreign-language subtitles; they translate a spoken language into a written language (Garza, 1991). Like foreign-language subtitles, captions appear at the bottom of the screen. Unlike foreign-language subtitles, captions translate into writing the same language that is heard in speaking, which is why captions are also called same-language subtitles. Captions also translate sound effects (“raindrops falling,” “footsteps approaching,” “horses galloping”); captions transcribe song lyrics, and captions offer other helpful clues, such as identifying conversational partners by their name and indicating off-screen voices with italics.

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#### Tweet

Everyone should turn on video captions; captions improve comprehension, memory, and attention, for everyone.

#### Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

More than 100 empirical studies, listed in the appendix, document the benefits of captions. These studies report benefits to a wide swath of participants as measured by a wide swath of criteria: summarizing main ideas (Markham, 2000–2001), recalling facts (Brasel & Gips, 2014), drawing inferences (Linebarger et al., 2010), defining words (Griffin & Dumestre, 1992–1993), identifying emotions (Murphy-Berman & Whobrey, 1983), and of course, answering multiple-choice comprehension questions (Hinkin, Harris, & Miranda, 2014; Markham & Peter, 2002–2003; Murphy-Berman & Jorgensen, 1980).

Eye-movement studies document that captions are read easily (d'Ydewalle & de Bruycker, 2007), attended to effortlessly (d'Ydewalle, Praet, Verfaillie, & van Rensbergen, 1991), and integrated smoothly with the soundtrack of the video (d'Ydewalle & Gielen, 1992). Standard verbatim captions are as effective as more detailed or elaborated captions (Anderson-Inman, Terrazas-Arellanes, & Slabin, 2009; Murphy-Berman & Jorgensen, 1980).

The numerous empirical studies referenced in the appendix demonstrate that captions benefit everyone who watches videos, from younger children to older adults. Captions are particularly beneficial to persons watching videos in their non-native language, children and adults learning to read, and persons who are D/deaf or hard of hearing, as illustrated below.

### **Captions Benefit Persons Who Are D/deaf or Hard of Hearing**

The early 20th century's golden age of cinema had created a level playing field for D/deaf and hard of hearing viewers. Silent films, with their interwoven screens of captions (called intertitles), created "the one brief time that deaf and hard of hearing citizens had comparatively equal access to motion pictures" (Schuchman, 2004, p. 231). But in the late 1920s, as talkies (films with synchronized speech) pushed out silent films, the D/deaf community was shut out.

In response, the D/deaf community created captions (Downey, 2010), first by recapitulating the intertitles of the silent film era and then by reconfiguring the bottom-of-the-screen foreign-language subtitles that carried U.S. films across the world. In the late 1950s, U.S. President Eisenhower authorized a federal Captioned Films for the Deaf agency (as "part of the post-Sputnik, cold war education boom," Downey, 2008, p. 193).

Captions began appearing on television shows in the 1970s (with their earliest appearances on ABC's *Mod Squad* and PBS's *The French Chef*; Withrow, 1994). In the 1980s, a handful of television shows began displaying captions in real time (e.g., the launch of the space shuttle *Columbia* and the acceptance speeches at the Academy Awards; Block & Okrand, 1983). By the 1990s, captions on TV shows were mandated by the U.S. law (Erath & Larkin, 2004). The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 requires that captioned TV shows also be captioned when displayed on the Internet.

It is unsurprising that captions benefit persons who are D/deaf or hard of hearing. But early experiments demonstrating that captions benefit D/deaf persons demonstrated something further: Captions also benefit hearing persons. For example, Figure 1 displays the results of a study by Nugent (1983). More than 30 D/deaf children and nearly 100 hearing children (9–14 years old) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: watch a video with audio

but without captions; read only the captions; watch the video with audio and with captions; or read and watch nothing, thereby serving as a control group.

The children's scores on a 23-item comprehension test are illustrated in Figure 1. Statistical analyses identified two main effects: a main effect of hearing status (hearing children scored higher on the comprehension test than D/deaf children) and a second, even more powerful, main effect of captioning. A lack of a statistical interaction between hearing status and captioning indicated that captions were as beneficial to the hearing children as they were to the D/deaf children.

Several other studies demonstrate the same effect: Video with audio and with captions leads to the highest levels of comprehension, both for D/deaf children and for hearing children (Anderson-Inman et al., 2009; Boyd & Vader, 1972; Cambra, Leal, & Silvestre, 2010; Fischer, 1971; Gulliver & Ghinea, 2003; Hertzog, Stinson, & Keiffer, 1989; Murphy-Berman & Jorgensen, 1980; Murphy-Berman & Whobrey, 1983; Nugent, 1983; Steinfeld, 1998; Yoon & Choi, 2010).

### **Captions Benefit Hearing Children Learning to Read**

Even for hearing children, learning to read is a complex process, which requires learning to map sound and meaning onto text (Linebarger, 2001). Soon after captions began appearing on TV shows for D/deaf audiences, educators of hearing children made a striking discovery: Because captions explicitly illustrate the mapping among sound, meaning, and text, captions could also benefit hearing children learning to read (Adler, 1985; Kirkland, Byrom, MacDougall, & Corcoran, 1995; Koskinen, Wilson, & Jensema, 1986; Parkhill, Johnson, & Bates, 2011).

For example, Figure 2 displays the results of a study of 70 hearing children learning to read (Linebarger et al., 2010). Second and third graders were randomly assigned either to watch videos with audio but without captions or to watch videos with audio and with captions. The children watched six ½-hr videos, which were episodes of PBS children's shows (e.g., *Arthur & Friends*, *Magic School Bus*, *Zoom*).

As Figure 2 illustrates, watching videos with audio and captions leads to significantly better reading skills. Children who watch captioned videos are better able to define content words that were heard in the videos, pronounce novel words, recognize vocabulary items (which may or may not have been heard in the videos), and draw inferences about what happened in the videos. Other studies demonstrate cumulative benefits from watching videos with captions, for example, cumulative growth in vocabulary both for hearing children (Koskinen et al., 1986) and for hearing adults (Griffin & Dumestre, 1992–1993).

### **Captions Benefit Hearing Adults**

After discovering that captions benefit hearing children learning to read, researchers investigated whether captions also benefit hearing adults learning to read. They do (Koskinen, Knable, Markham, Jensema, & Kane, 1995–1996; Kothari, Pandey, & Chudgar, 2004; Kruger, Kruger, & Verhoef, 2007).

For example, in the late 1990s, researchers encouraged India's national television network to begin captioning popular Bollywood music videos, which were sung and captioned in Hindi. The literacy of thousands of adults was assessed before the captioned music videos began airing and several years later. The literacy of adults who frequently watched the captioned videos increased at a much greater pace than the literacy of adults who rarely or never watched the captioned videos (Kothari & Bandyopadhyay, 2014).

Even highly literate adults benefit from captions. For example, when highly literate adults watch television commercials that are captioned, they remember brand names better (Brasel & Gips, 2014), and when highly literate college students watch course lectures that are captioned, they remember course content better (Steinfeld, 1998). Captions benefit hearing adults, just as captions benefit hearing children.

### **Captions Benefit Hearing Persons Learning a Second Language**

Captions for D/deaf persons were co-opted from foreign-language subtitles for hearing persons. In the early 1980s, as captions for D/deaf persons became more prominent, second-language instructors began re-co-opting captions for hearing persons, to improve second-language literacy (Price, 1983; Vanderplank, 2013). Scores of studies demonstrate that captions in a second language benefit hearing persons learning that second language; indeed, captions in a second language benefit hearing persons learning that second language even more than captions in the persons' native language.

For example, Figure 3 displays the results from nearly 150 Japanese junior college and university students learning English as a second language (Yoshino, Kano, & Akahori, 2000). The students watched three types of videos: videos with English audio but without any captions, videos with English audio and Japanese captions, videos with English audio and English captions. In a fourth condition, the students listened to only the English audio.

After watching each type of video (or listening to only the audio) twice, in counter-balanced order, the students recalled as much content as they could using either Japanese and English. The students recalled substantially more content after they watched the videos with English captions than after they watched the same videos with Japanese captions. In fact, after watching the videos with Japanese captions, the students recalled as little as they recalled after not even watching the videos (the audio only condition).

Captions (same-language subtitles) also improve second-language learners' listening comprehension. Figure 4 displays data from University of Southern California students learning English as a second language (Huang & Eskey, 1999–2000). The students were randomly assigned to watch videos with English audio and English captions or with English audio but without captions. Watching videos with English captions not only improved the students' performance when tested with a written comprehension test, but also improved the students' performance when tested with an auditory, listening, comprehension test.

Captions benefit hearing persons learning a second language, regardless of genre. Figure 5a displays data from 70 college students learning English as a second language, and Figure 5b displays data from 40 English-speaking college students learning Russian as a second

language (Garza, 1991). The students learning English as a second language were randomly assigned to watch videos with English audio and with or without English captions. The students learning Russian as a second language were randomly assignment to watch videos with Russian audio and with or without Russian captions.

As both Figures 5a and 5b illustrate, watching videos with same-language captions leads to significantly better comprehension. Captions benefit comprehension, regardless of the language being learned (Russian or English) and regardless of the genre being watched, from documentaries (*The Sharks*) to dramas (*Hoosiers*) to animations (*An American Tail*) to comedies (*The Secret of My Success*) to music videos (*The Authority Song*).

## What Are the Policy Implications?

The empirical evidence is clear: Captions, also known as same-language subtitles, benefit everyone who watches videos. More than 100 studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, memory for, and attention to videos, for children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Although captions particularly benefit persons watching videos in their non-native language, children and adults learning to read, and persons who are D/deaf or hard of hearing, captions also benefit highly literate, hearing adults.

With so many studies documenting the benefits of captions, why does everyone not always turn on the captions every time they watch a video? Regrettably, the benefits of captions are not widely known. Some researchers are unaware of the wide-ranging benefits of captions because the empirical evidence is published across separate literatures (deaf education, second-language learning, adult literacy, and reading acquisition). Bringing together these separate literatures is the primary purpose of this article.

Reaping the benefits of captions is also impeded by erroneous attitudes (e.g., Weasenforth, 1994). Many people think captions are intended for, and therefore only beneficial to, persons who are D/deaf. For example, in a survey of several hundred K-12 educators across 45 U.S. states, almost all of whom were experienced teachers who frequently showed videos in their classroom, the majority had never turned on the captions on those videos. The minority who had, reported their students having reaped benefits from the captions (Bowe & Kaufman, 2001).

Similarly, faculty and administrators in higher education are unlikely to be aware of the benefits of captions for university students, despite the fact that captions perfectly illustrate the fundamental principle of Universal Design. Like curb cuts and elevators, captions were initially developed for persons with disabilities, and, like curb cuts and elevators, captions benefit persons with and without disabilities. Indeed, the overwhelmingly vast majority of persons who benefit from curb cuts and elevators are not persons with disabilities, and the same could be true for captions.

The Institute of International Education reports that international students are enrolling in U.S. colleges and universities at an all-time high, a whopping 72% increase in only the past decade. Nearly a third of the international students studying in the United States are from China (Redden, 2014). Given the increasing number of students in U.S. institutions of higher



education who are not native English speakers and given the powerful benefits of captions to non-native speakers, it would behoove professors to turn on captions.

Unfortunately, a primary reason that everyone who watches videos is not benefitting from captions is that not all videos are captioned. Despite U.S. laws, which cover many workplace and educational contexts, many video audiences and video creators are naïve about the legal mandate to caption, much less the empirical benefit of captions. Some organizations rely solely on automatically generated captions (e.g., the auto-generated captions found on many YouTube videos).

However, as recent litigation (Orzeck, 2015) as well as empirical data (Pan, Jiang, Yao, Picheny, & Qin, 2010) demonstrate, captions generated via automated speech recognition are not yet without interfering error. When auto-generated captions reach parity with human-transcribed captions, further technologies, including real-time captioning of lectures for all students (Bain, Basson, Faisman, & Kanevsky, 2005), will be able to harness the power of captions for the broadest population ever.

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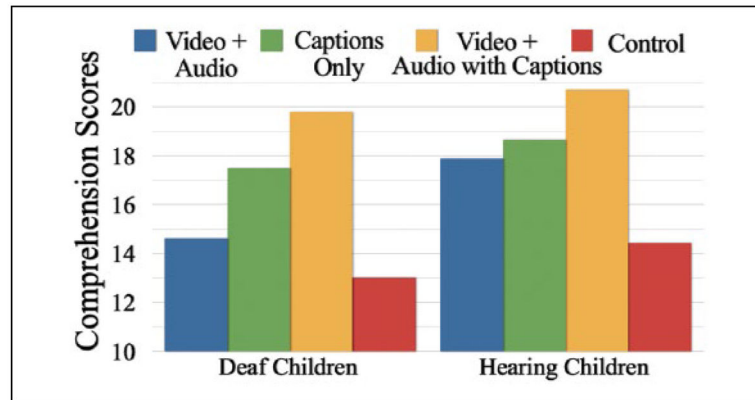
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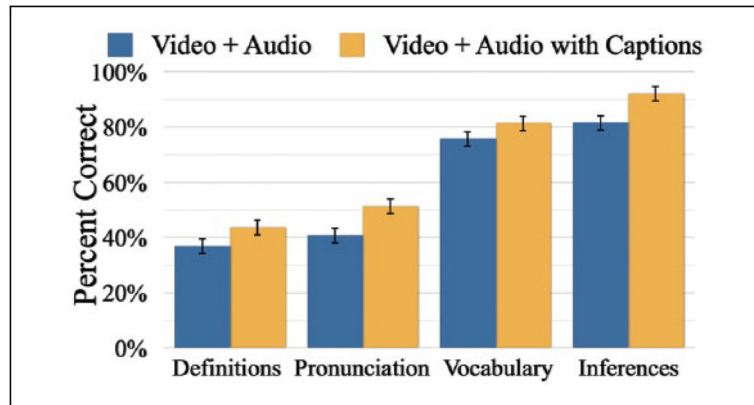
### Key Points

- Captions benefit everyone who watches videos, from younger children to older adults.
- Captions are particularly beneficial to persons watching videos in their non-native language, children and adults learning to read, and persons who are D/deaf or hard of hearing.
- Captions generated via automated speech recognition are not yet without interfering error, but when auto-generated captions reach parity with human-transcribed captions, technology will be able to harness the power of captions.
- Despite U.S. laws, which require captioning in most workplace and educational contexts, many video audiences and video creators are naïve about the legal mandate to caption, much less the empirical benefit of captions.





**Figure 1.**  
Data from Nugent (1983).



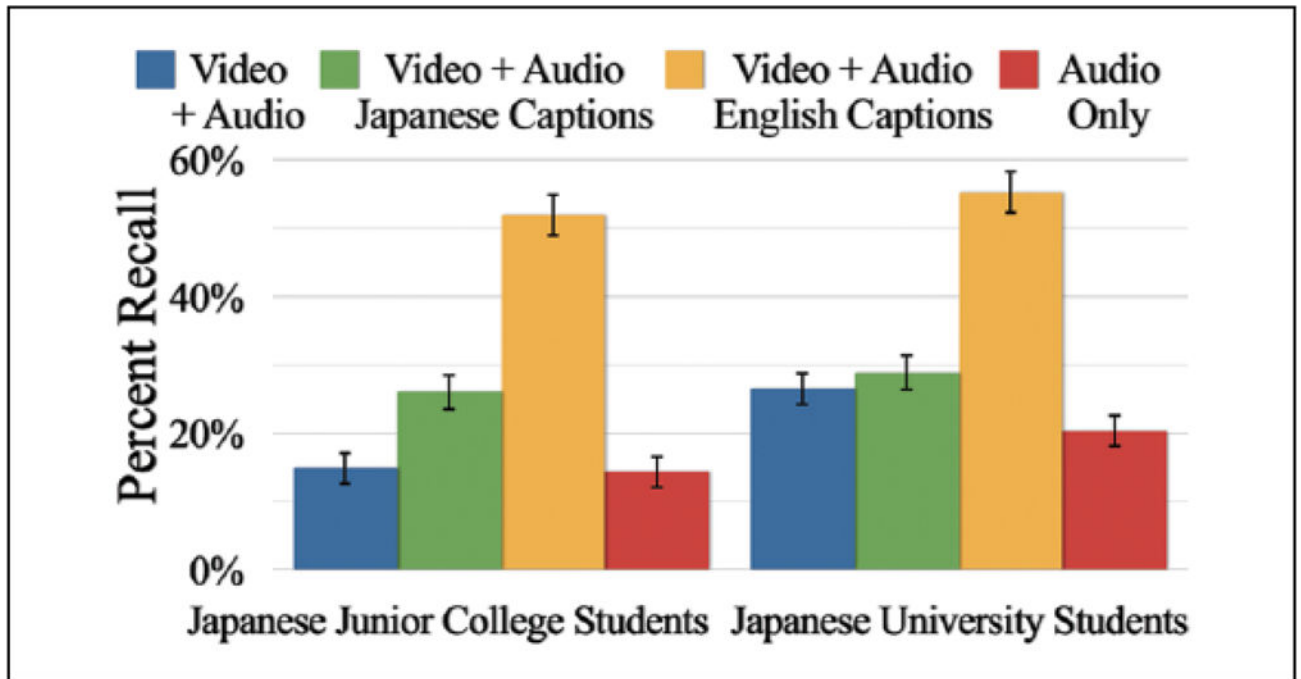
**Figure 2.**  
Data from Linebarger, Piotrowski, and Greenwood (2010).

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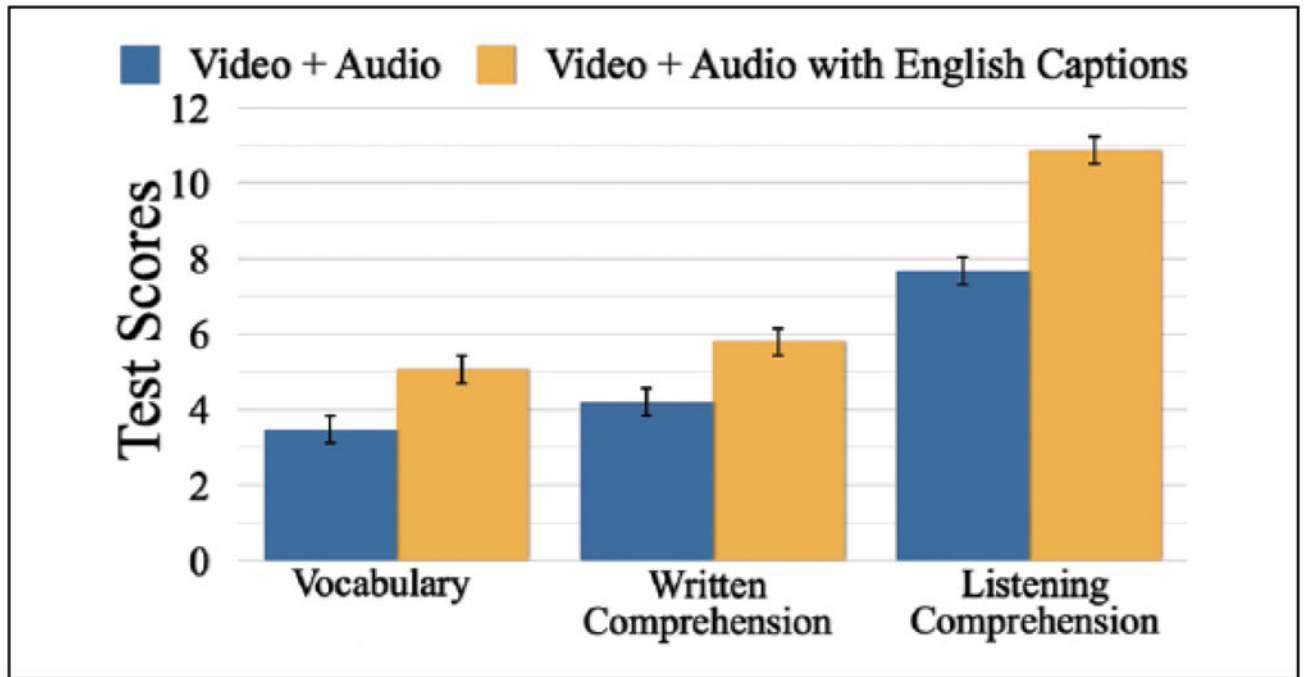
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**Figure 3.**  
Data from Yoshino, Kano, and Akahori (2000).



**Figure 4.**  
Data from Huang and Eskey (1999–2000).

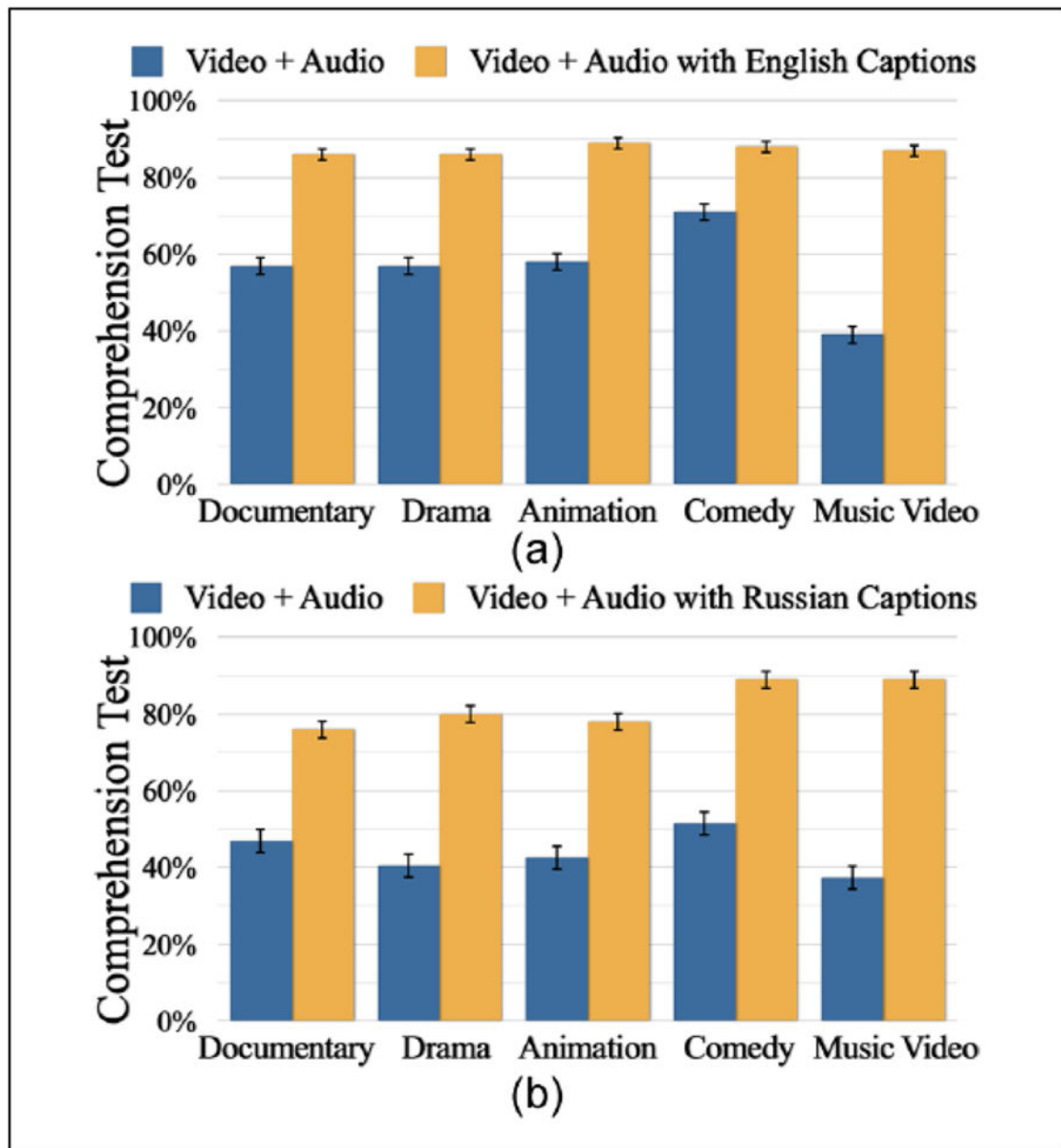


Figure 5.  
Data from Garza (1991).

# **Roy Fernandes Oral Testimony Addition.pdf**


Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

A woman with dark hair, wearing a colorful sari with orange, green, and blue patterns, is speaking. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. In the top right corner, there is a logo that says "EASY HINDI" in a stylized font.

**EASY  
HINDI**

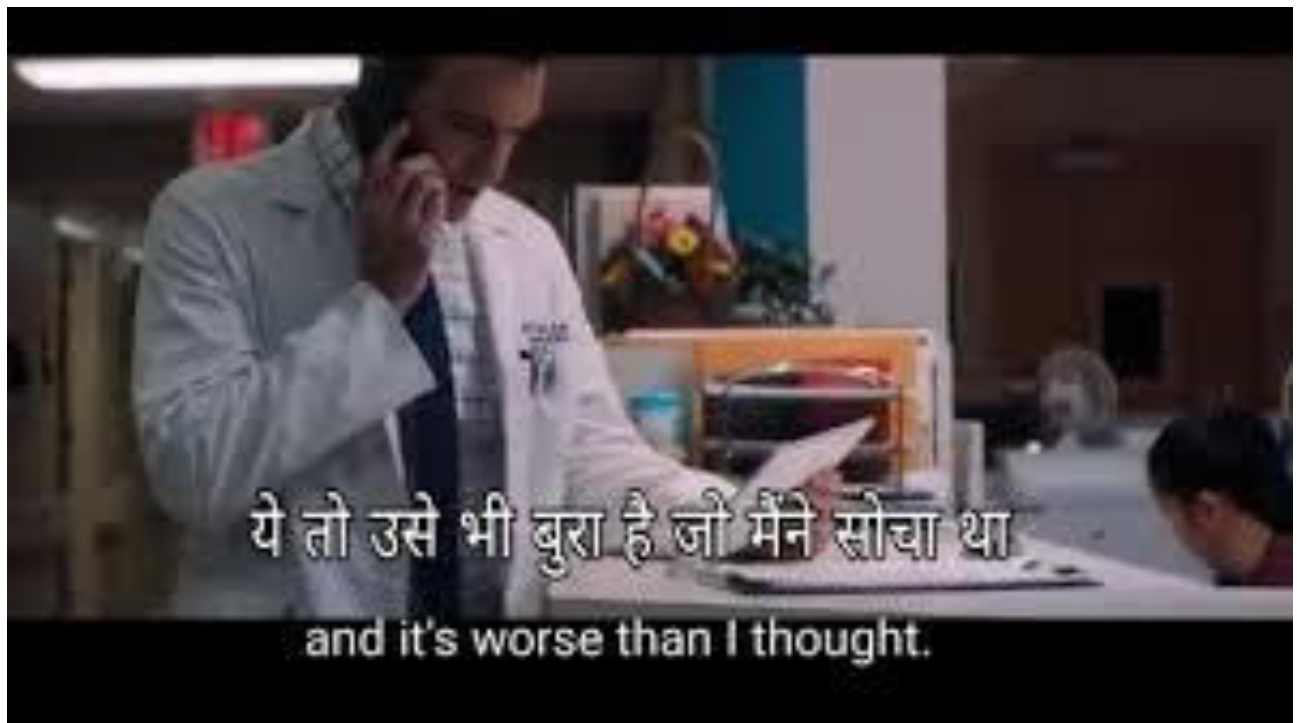
आप क्या काम करते हैं?  
Aap kya kaam karte hain?  
What work do you do?

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red sari, is looking slightly to the left with a thoughtful expression. The background is dark and out of focus. In the foreground, there is a blurred figure of another person.

उसके बिना जीने का मैं सोच भी नहीं सकती।  
**I can't even think of living without him.**



मेरी अगली कॉल तक वंही रेहना  
Stay there until my next call.



ये तो उसे भी बुरा है जी मैंने सोचा था  
and it's worse than I thought.





# **Roy Fernandes Oral Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, thank you for letting me testify. My name is Roy Fernandes. I am a native of India. I came to the US in 1980 and found out that there were no open caption screenings at most theaters in the US, especially Maryland. Presently Sony CC glasses, Captiview device and rear-window captioning system are not helpful for foreign-speaking movie viewers. In India, there are many open captioned screenings at the theater. Screenings started being open captioned a long time ago. In that country, they don't use Sony CC glasses or Captiview device like that. Open captioning screenings indeed help educate Indian-speaking viewers to learn English and Hindi since state residents speak their own language. Common language that is widely spoken in India is English. Here's what open-captioned movies look like (see images). Majority of Indians supported open captioning screenings. Even there is an Indian-owned movie theater in Falls Church, VA providing English subtitled Indian movies and a regal movie theater in Virginia providing English subtitled Indian screenings, not general movie screenings.

Second, the proven data shows that captions indeed benefit everyone. This captioning technique can improve children's reading skills, boost adolescents' written and spoken vocabulary, increase college students' attention to lectures and enhance second-language learner's pronunciation. Captions are like foreign-language subtitles: they translate a spoken language into a written language. Captions also translate sound effects ("raindrops falling," "footsteps approaching," "horses galloping"). Captions transcribe song lyrics and offer other helpful clues, such as identifying conversational partners by their name and indicating off-screen voices with italics.

As you can see, the empirical evidence is clear: Captions, also known as same-language subtitles, benefit everyone who watches open captioning movies. The common language in the US is English so captioning would be a good opportunity for foreign-speaking viewers to learn English. Other countries already have set up the OC/subtitled movies. We are in the US and we are behind. I think it is time to change.

Please support this bill SB 400 to provide equal access and others to learn written/spoken/signed English. I appreciate your taking your time to listen to my testimony. Thanks again.

# **Sarah and Scott's Testimony for MD Assembly.pdf**

Uploaded by: Scott Clark

Position: FAV

## Scott's Testimony

Hello, my name is Scott Clark, and I am the proud parent of a Deaf 11-year-old named Sarah. She is an amazing child, and I could go on at length about the profound ways in which she has changed me and the world around her, but that's not why we're here. I could explain that learning a new language, ASL, to raise and communicate with my daughter is one of the least difficult and most rewarding things I've had to learn as a parent. But, we're here because my daughter and I love going to the movies. She loves the popcorn, and the candy and soda that her mother wishes I wouldn't buy, the big spectacle of it all and the time we spend together. I love how much she learns and grows from the stories she sees, and talking to her about them afterwards. She's an avid reader, but this is something different. All that being said, if you could have seen look on her face when we went a couple months ago to see *Strange World* and the captions weren't on, you wouldn't have any question about this bill. The theater workers were as sympathetic as could be as they gave us gift vouchers and apologies, and my daughter sat quietly but politely fuming. But the look of disappointment on her face had all of us nearly in tears. She'd been waiting for weeks to see this movie (don't ask me why, it didn't look that good to me) and now she had to wait another week, and HOPE they could reschedule another showing and that the captions worked this time. This is NOT THE FIRST TIME this has happened. And I'll let her explain why the Closed Caption devices are not adequate, she is very convincing on that subject. The movies have helped teach my daughter that she can change the world. I will let her tell you how she'd like you to help her do that. One other thing, I really need the captions, too. The older I get, the more I appreciate them. Thank you.

## Sarah's Testimony

Hello! My name is Sarah Clark. My name sign is (bird). I am Deaf, and 11 years old, almost 12 in the end of March. I go to Maryland School for the Deaf. I have an amazing hearing family, including my Papa and Mom! I love cheerleading and reading and going to the movies. But, sometimes, there's one reason that barriers me from going to the movies, and that reason is Closed Captions. Closed Captions is when you don't have captions during a movie showing, Open Captions is when you do. Closed Captions is unfair for Deaf people, and people who may have a harder time hearing. Sometimes they will give you tools, such as bulky glasses and a holding thing that you have to hold for the entire time. Mind me, but I don't wanna hold something for 90 minutes or more! I'm sure y'all are familiar with the famous Deaf actor, Marlee Matlin. A month or two ago, she found herself walking out of a movie showing, because it didn't have captions. The same thing happened to me and my dad a few months ago. We were going to see Strange World, and when my dad bought the tickets, it said the movie had Open Captions, and we was really excited. We went, and went in the movie theater. Once it started, we realized the captions weren't there. We went to talk to the employees, they said that they made a mistake it wasn't actually OC! But they asked if we could go back in and see if the captions started. It didn't. They refunded us, and gave us free tickets and free popcorn for next time, but I was really sad and mad. I was trying to not just yell at them to improve. I was furious, and my dad and I was on the verge of tears. Also, a few years ago, my old friend and me and my mom and my old friends mom went to the movies for a fun day, we were about 8. We got turned away

for the same reason. I really do think Open Captions can really benefit us all. Let stand for Open Captions. Thank you for listening. Bye.

# **MDAD Vice President's Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV



My name is Tina Joyner, I am the Vice President of the Maryland Association of the Deaf. The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) is a statewide organization that protects the interests of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Marylanders concerning accessibility and equality issues. We are advocating for the passage of Senate Bill 400 sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse regarding movie theater captioning. There are approximately 1.2 million Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals living in the State of Maryland.

As you heard, the community experiences issues and problems with the closed caption devices at movie theaters. Yes, Federal Law requires closed captions devices at the movie theaters. However, that does not cover open captioning movies that give us equal access. The National Association of Theater Owners say that the federal law is sufficient. However, we would like to make a point that the Federal Government gives the States' rights to create laws. We believe that it is important for the State of Maryland to establish this law to ensure that the community at the state-level are protected and have equal access for all. State laws can solve issues that citizens of Maryland are experiencing. We ask that the State of Maryland provides equal access for all.

NATO is concerned about low sales and loss of business, we want to point out that all businesses were impacted by the pandemic, not just movie theaters. The public is returning back to what is normal for all of us. This bill can attract others who haven't gone to movie theaters, not just deaf and hard of hearing communities and this will bring more revenues for the movie theaters.

Hawaii is the first, and so far, the only state that implemented this law since 2019. MDAD contacted a state association in Hawaii, which indicated that the financial impact for the movie theaters has NO negative impacts. If the cash flow was negative, these movie theater operators would have already been championing removing the law by now. More recently, in December of 2021, NYC passed a similar law. I would like to mention that NATO stated during last year's hearing before the Economics Matters Committee that it does not cost a penny to turn the open captioning on the screen. Now is the time for Maryland to lead the national effort in equal access for all in the movie theaters.

We look forward to a favorable report on SB 400.

**SB0400\_UNF\_NATO.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alex Rich

Position: UNF



**Statement of Position  
National Association of Theatre Owners**

**In Opposition to SB 400: Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses -  
Captioning**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**February 16, 2023**

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) operating in Maryland, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to SB 400 - Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning.

The exhibition industry is committed to providing access for all patrons attending a motion picture. To achieve this goal, NATO has worked with the federal government, exhibitors, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to provide personal closed captioning devices that ensure equal access for every movie at every showtime.

Furthermore, to increase access options for moviegoers, theatres throughout the country, including many operating in Maryland, are committed to providing open captioned showtimes based on consumer desire, market conditions, and guest feedback. These programs have been operating despite the ongoing existential threats to the industry caused by the prolonged recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited film supply. A mandate such as SB 400 would further inhibit the industry's recovery in Maryland.

Data collected by exhibitors shows that open captioned showtimes attract fewer guests than non-captioned shows. SB 400 would not allow exhibitors the flexibility necessary to respond to the needs of the communities in which they operate. Instead, we ask that the exhibitors be allowed to continue developing models for open captioned programming that fit the needs of their customer base while allowing theatres the ability to react to the ever-changing desires of their audiences.

A “one-size-fits-all” approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater nor the customers they serve. An open captioned mandate would not allow theatres to build a framework in which operators and advocates can work together to create market-driven programs that can be adjusted and improved where needed. Through this joint process, movie theaters aim to implement open captioned programs that meet or exceed the demands of the local market.

For these reasons, NATO respectfully opposes SB 400 - Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning. The exhibition industry remains committed to maintaining access for all patrons attending movies and expanding options for their customers based on consumer demand.

**SB0400\_UNF\_RegalCinemas.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bobby Fiandra

Position: UNF



Testimony of Bobby Fiandra/ Regal Cinemas in OPPOSITION To SB 400 - Places of  
Accommodation -Motion Picture Houses–Captioning  
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 15, 2023  
POSITION: Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldsteicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Fiandra. I am the District Manager for Regal Cinemas overseeing operations in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Regal Cinemas operates thirteen theatres with 187 screens in Maryland.

As a company, serving all audiences is integral to our financial success. We feature a diverse array of film product ranging from blockbuster movies to independent films, as well as foreign features. Our intention is to serve as wide of an audience as possible, including members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

We respectfully oppose SB 400, as a one-size fits all approach through a legislative mandate does not adequately meet the needs of each community in the state. However, we fully recommend and support voluntary programs focused on the demands of each market. We believe that collaboration instead of legislation works best.

All thirteen of our Maryland sites currently play open caption titles upon advance guest request. Furthermore, we feature open caption shows daily at several of our Maryland locations. Each week our top three films are selected as part of the program. Our open caption showtimes include primetime weekend options. While we are proud to offer these performances, we are very concerned that formal mandates through legislation would have a negative financial impact on our business by eliminating flexibility in accommodating actual demand within the marketplace.

In addition to proactively providing open caption performances based on demand, we offer several technologies and private rentals to further accommodate our guests. All of our locations are equipped with assisted listening headphones to amplify the audio, and closed captioning devices to allow guests to see captions in their field of view without affecting others. Additionally, our Private Watch Party program allows guests, even in small groups, to rent an entire auditorium to enjoy a movie of their choice.

In summary, our intention is to enable as many people to patronize our theatres as much as possible. It is in our best interest to engage and accommodate our deaf and hard-of-hearing guests but mandating open captioning across the board will limit our ability to best serve actual demand in our community. As such, we respectfully ask that you oppose SB 400 and allow us to continue with the voluntary program we have in place.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts.

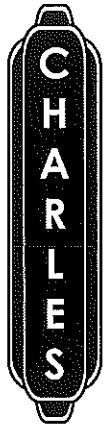
Thank you,

Bobby Fiandra  
District Manager

**SB0400\_UNF\_TheCharlesTheatre.pdf.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christopher Lyon

Position: UNF



February 14, 2023

**RE: SB 400 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses –  
Captioning  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 16, 2023  
Position: Unfavorable**

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldsteicher, and Members of the Committee:

My family owns and operates The Charles Theatre in Baltimore, and, respectfully, I am writing to ask that you oppose SB 400 - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning. As written, the bill would require at least two open-captioned shows per film each week, after the film's first play week.

This one-size-fits-all mandate is problematic because not all cinemas offer the same programming. The legislation would (1) prove challenging logistically for many of the titles we offer our patrons, potentially eliminating certain programming altogether, and (2) does not reflect the demand for open-captioning in Baltimore.

Our theater screens independent films and "revival" films. With independent films, there may be only one or two shows scheduled per day. And the revival films are offered on an even less frequent basis, at times only once or twice in a given week. Note that the number of screenings offered for a title in any week is based on expected attendance. For more obscure programming, there might be only one screening in a week.

Thus, a requirement to screen at least two open-captioned shows of every film every week would potentially eliminate programming a film that would receive only one showtime in a week.

To be sure, we appreciate and welcome our deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We provide closed-captioning devices that give deaf and hard-of-hearing guests the opportunity to attend any movie, at any time.

We have good relationships with our deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We are able to schedule open-caption shows upon advanced request. We have done so, for example, for screenings of BELFAST. Moreover, our Sunday Cinema Club screenings—weekly screenings on Sundays of newly released movies—are always screened in open-caption.



Anecdotally, in August 2021 I met with Jacob Leffler of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf ("BCAD"). Mr. Leffler had inquired about a fundraising opportunity at our theatre for BCAD in connection with the release of the movie CODA. Attached is my email exchange with Mr. Leffler.

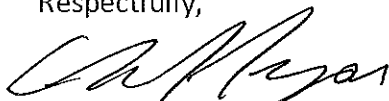
In support of the BCAD's efforts, we offered at no charge use of our lobby so that BCAD could present promotional materials to the theater's customers and invite them to sign up on BCAD's mailing list. The BCAD held its event on August 20, 2021.

In the days leading up to BCAD's event, I met with members of the BCAD, including Mr. Leffler, to show them the lobby space. At that time, Mr. Leffler posed the question whether the theater would consider screening open-caption shows. I responded, "yes," and invited BCAD to let us know of any titles in which they had interest. I never received any further inquiries from either BCAD or Mr. Leffler about open-caption programming.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guests' requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, which does not, in fact, fit. Know that this legislation would impact programming choices, ultimately eliminating some programming altogether.

We, therefore, ask that you vote unfavorable on SB 400. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Christopher J. Lyon

Enclosure



**ATTACHMENT**

Re: Fundraiser Event at Charles Theatre

From: Charles Theatre (charlestheatre@yahoo.com)

To: bcadeaf2020@gmail.com

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 10:16 AM EDT

That works, thank you.

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 10:15:44 AM EDT, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <bcadeaf2020@gmail.com> wrote:

I can meet at 1pm if that works?

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

My apologies, Jacob. I already have a 2:00 call today. Are you available earlier?

Thank you,  
Chris  
410-727-3464

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone.

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 8:01 AM, Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning, Jacob. 2:00 today is fine, and by phone, too, works. Unless you'd prefer to see the lobby.

Regards,  
Chris  
410-727-3464

On Monday, August 16, 2021, 08:45:49 PM EDT, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <bcadeaf2020@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Sure, we can meet tomorrow in the afternoon? After 2pm? Let me know what time works for you.

Thank you,

Jacob Lefler

On Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 8:28 PM Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi, sounds good. Do you have time tomorrow to chat about logistics?

Thank you,  
Chris  
410-727-3464

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Monday, August 16, 2021, 8:01 PM, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <[bcadeaf2020@gmail.com](mailto:bcadeaf2020@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Mr. Lyon,

Thank you for the email. I apologize for the delay in responding to you. I had to share with the Board. We agree that we would like to have a space in the lobby. We would like to be there at 4 showtimes, 1 or 2 people will be there representing BCAD at each time with a flyer about our organization and for people to sign up for our mailing list.

We are excited about seeing CODA on Friday!

Can you let us know what is the next step to reserve it and the location of it?

Thank you,

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 9:42 AM Charles Theatre <[charlestheatre@yahoo.com](mailto:charlestheatre@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Leffler, thank you for reaching out. We are looking forward to our run of CODA, a first full release open caption across the board. We do appreciate you thinking of us and we'd be happy to donate space in our lobby for any fundraising efforts that might make sense, as well as a set of passes. Regarding donating a share of ticket sales as you propose, you might imagine, it has been a difficult time for theaters this past 1 1/2 years, and, moreover, the distributor already takes a considerable share off the top. So that's something we're not willing to do. But let us know if there's interest in our other suggestions.

Regards,  
Chris Lyon  
410-727-3464

On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 03:58:09 PM EDT, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <[bcadeaf2020@gmail.com](mailto:bcadeaf2020@gmail.com)> wrote:

Mr. Lyon,

The President and Treasurer of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf stopped by at the theatre today to discuss the movie, CODA that you will show on Friday, August 20, 2021. We learned that the tickets are not available until next week.

We inquired about the fundraiser event and they told us to contact you via email. We were wondering if it is possible for us to have a fundraiser event on Friday, August 20, 2021. We were thinking, maybe some percentage of sales can go to our organization. Of course, we will promote the event statewide.

A little background of our organization and what we do. The Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD) is an organization in the City of Baltimore that provides advocacy and services to the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals in Baltimore City, Maryland.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jacob Leffler

**sb400.pdf**

Uploaded by: david phillips

Position: UNF



**Executive Offices:**

231 W. Cherry Hill Ct., P.O. Box 1056  
Reisterstown, MD 21136-7056  
Telephone 410-526-4774  
Fax 410-526-6871

**SB 400 – CAPTIONING**

**Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**February 16 2023**

**Position: Unfavorable**

My name is David Phillips and I am the Chief Operating Officer of RC Theatres. R/C Theatres is a small 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family owned Maryland Company. It was started in the 1920's with the Leader Theatre in Baltimore and is presently owned by the founder's grandson, Scott R. Cohen. R/C maintains its corporate office in Maryland, employees over 100 Marylanders and operates theatres in Westminster, Arbutus and California MD.

I am concerned that this bill will be detrimental to our business and does not reflect the programming demand of our consumers. Recently an open caption trailer was accidentally scheduled on one of our films, sending someone out to the lobby asking if there was something wrong with the presentation; not wanting or expecting subtitles on the screen. Even with best efforts to inform our guests, we worry that open caption shows will result in negative experiences and stifled ticket sales.

As written, the bill would require at least two open caption shows per film each week. This one-size-fits-all mandate would not reflect the demand for open captioning at our Maryland theatres; and would prove challenging to schedule for films held over for just a show or two per day, as well as specialty programs that may play only once or twice in any given week.. If this bill passes, I fear it will hurt our recovery through lower attendance, a decline in ticket sales, and negative customer feedback.

We appreciate and welcome our deaf and hard of hearing patrons, and already provide closed captioning devices that give these guests the opportunity to attend any movie, at any time. In addition, we are able to schedule open caption shows upon request through the Accessibility page on our website (<https://www.rctheatres.com/page?id=12302>). As a company, in our many years of operation in Maryland, we have received so few requests they could be counted on one hand.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guest requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all legislated mandate that will seriously impact ticket sales and impede our recovery.

Respectfully,

David Phillips, COO

**SB0400\_UNF\_AMCTheatres.pdf**

Uploaded by: Derek Hein

Position: UNF



WE MAKE MOVIES BETTER™

February 15, 2023

**Maryland Senate Bill 400 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses –  
Captioning  
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Position: Unfavorable**

On behalf of AMC Theatres, the largest theatrical exhibitor in the State of Maryland and the United States, we respectfully request that you oppose SB 400. Since AMC is already providing open caption showtimes voluntarily and complies with federal law on accessibility, this legislation is unnecessary.

Inclusive programming is core to AMC's strategy, and we are proud to lead the theatrical exhibition industry by making open caption showtimes available in the state of Maryland. Currently, guests at 7 AMC locations within the state can find clearly marked open caption showtimes at [AMCTheaters.com](http://AMCTheaters.com) and on the AMC mobile app. The showtimes currently represent a mix of weekend and weekdays, evenings, and matinees, and are expected to evolve with movie-going demand and guest feedback.

In addition to public showtimes, open captions are also available through AMC's Private Theatre Rentals program and group open caption requests. While AMC is excited to offer open captioning for those guests who desire this format, substantially all showtimes at AMC will continue to be offered with closed captioning, which allows audience members to attend all shows at every time without any disruption in ticket sales. Therefore, AMC will continue to have closed captioning and assisted listening devices available at all its locations in the state.

By allowing AMC to offer open caption showings on a voluntary basis, rather than a mandated basis, it allows us to react to actual demand and adjust the number of screenings and the showtimes as appropriate. Although so many industries were affected by the pandemic, cinemas were hit particularly hard as our movie theaters were closed for approximately fifty weeks due to the pandemic. As we economically recover from a period of time in which we had zero income, flexibility in scheduling is paramount.

Our industry remains under significant pressure which has lead Regal, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest global movie theater chain to file for chapter 11 bankruptcy and we have seen Pacific Arclight and New Vision liquidated in bankruptcy. In order to avoid other permanent closures, flexibility in programming is critical as movie theaters are very capital intensive to operate.

In conclusion, we believe that our voluntary open caption program meets consumer demand as opposed to a rigid mandate that would be economically damaging and unnecessary. Therefore, we respectfully request that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Derek Hein  
On behalf of AMC Theatres  
[derek@1861consulting.com](mailto:derek@1861consulting.com)  
(785) 319-9898

**SB0400\_UNF\_Mid-Atlantic NATO.pdf**

Uploaded by: Doug Murdoch

Position: UNF





## **SB 400 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

### **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**February 16, 2023**

**Position: Unfavorable**

On behalf of Mid-Atlantic NATO, a regional affiliate of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), representing movie theatres throughout Maryland, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to SB 400.

**Maryland’s movie theaters are committed to access for individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing.** For over 25 years, the movie theater industry has collaborated with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to achieve access to all feature films at all times.

**Moviegoers in Maryland seeking captions have the flexibility to view a movie with captions at any showtime, on any day.** In 2016, the Department of Justice issued a final rule requiring digital movie theaters to provide closed movie captioning equipment. The DOJ adopted the majority of recommendations set forth in an agreement between the National Association of Theatre Owners and major advocacy groups, including the Hearing Loss Association of America and the National Association of the Deaf. Through these collaborative efforts, today, digital movie theaters in Maryland offer closed movie captioning devices (allowing text to be viewable by an individual moviegoer) that can be used at any show time for any movie that comes with closed movie captions.

**Movie theaters in Maryland already work with their local communities to enhance existing access by scheduling open movie captioned shows on a regular basis.** In addition to closed captioning offerings, where the demand for open captioned (text on the screen viewable by all moviegoers) showtimes exists, movie theaters in Maryland collaborate with their patrons that are deaf or hard of hearing to develop market appropriate programming and accommodations. A listing of current open movie captioning programs being offered throughout the state is included with this testimony.

**Lawmakers should allow the industry to respond to the marketplace instead of passing a “one-size-fits-all” statewide mandate.** Our records indicate that the mandate set forth in SB 400 would apply to 51 movie theater locations across the state where owners operate at least two locations. The bill would require these locations to provide open captioning twice per week per film, after the first seven days, for almost every movie played, regardless of local demographics. Based on the 547-screen count across these 51 locations, we estimate this bill would require approximately 800 open captioned shows per week, 41,600 open captioned showtimes per year.

**Historically, the industry has found that when open-captioned shows are mandated, instead of scheduled based on consumer demand, theaters see a significant drop in attendance.** Despite assertions to the contrary, attendance data demonstrates that open caption showtimes have a very small turnout due to limited consumer demand.



**Movie theaters were devastated by the pandemic and are struggling to recover.** Despite slight gains over 2020 & 2021 attendance numbers when theatres were shuttered for most of the year, box office admissions in Maryland were still 37.4% lower in 2022 than they were in 2019. Even with the most recent blockbuster releases making national headlines during 2022, our Maryland theatres will likely take years to recover their losses, and the open captioning mandate outlined in SB 400 would further reduce theater attendance at a critical time for movie theaters’ recovery. One current Maryland operator is already going through bankruptcy reorganization. Since movie theaters are already 100% accessible and offer enhanced access with open movie caption showtimes, we believe this legislation to be unnecessary and potentially harmful to a theater’s financial viability.

**SB 400 also has technical issues within the language of the bill that could have unintended consequences on how the rule would be applied to Maryland movie theaters.** While lawmakers have described the bill as being based on prior legislation from Hawaii (the only state with a captioning law, with far fewer theater owners covered), Maryland’s definition of “closed captioning” in motion picture theaters is unclear. The Bill uses the word “houses” to describe covered locations, which is ambiguous as to whether it relates to movie theater locations or auditoriums contained within a movie theater. Moreover, the requirement to provide “open captioning” for films produced and offered with “closed captioning” creates a mandate that may be beyond a movie theater’s ability to comply. Not all films come with closed captioning and even if they do, they may not include an open captioned file to allow a movie theater to meet the mandate.

In its 2016 ruling, the Department of Justice (DOJ) intentionally used the terms “open movie captioning” and “closed movie captioning”, instead of “closed captioning”, so as not to create confusion with the terms used in the context of television captioning. Television closed captioning is hidden unless specifically initiated by the viewer to enable the captions to be visible. Movie theaters provide closed captioning devices, whereby the captions are only viewable by a single viewer. Conversely, a separate file must be initiated to enable open captions on screen viewable to all viewers. Captioning on television cannot be viewed with the same assistive technology as used in a movie theater, and captioning on a movie screen cannot be accomplished with the same assistive technology as on a television.

**Not all films play full-week schedules.** As written, SB 400 would require open captioning twice per week for each motion picture it screens, after the first seven days, without allowance for special event films that may only play once per week or once per day. In addition, many films in subsequent weeks after the first few weeks will be held over for just a show or two per day, and may end mid-week to allow space to open a new motion picture. With this limited availability, movie theaters would be unable to meet the legislative mandate or be forced to not show such films to avoid risk of violating the legislative mandates proposed.

**For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on SB 400.**

For further information, please contact Jenna Massoni (410-935-1470, [jmassoni@cgagroup.com](mailto:jmassoni@cgagroup.com)) or Ellen Valentino (410-693-2226, [evalentino@cgagroup.com](mailto:evalentino@cgagroup.com)) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443.895.1446, [doug@midatlanticnato.com](mailto:doug@midatlanticnato.com)).



# Open Movie Captioning Programs Maryland Movie Theaters February 2023

## **Introduction**

Mid-Atlantic NATO (Maryland) and the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) appreciate the opportunity to work with advocates, state and local governments, and theaters of every size to increase access for individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. While all digital theaters are currently accessible to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, NATO members understand consumer desire for access options and are committed to expanding access by the creation and implementation of pilot open movie captioned programming. NATO members are eager to partner with advocacy organizations to promote these showtimes to moviegoers.

In addition to open movie caption programs in Maryland and across the country, NATO members will continue to offer the use of closed movie captioning devices and make these individual devices available at every movie, at every showtime in accordance with the exhibition industry's agreement with the Department of Justice. Staff will continue to be trained on the preparation and use of the devices. NATO is also developing additional training material for its members on proper maintenance of closed movie captioning devices and systems.

This memo outlines select open movie captioning programs currently happening in Maryland theaters, but should not be considered complete, as all locations are scheduling additional open captioned showtimes on a theater-by-theater basis in response to guest requests.

## **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

Most U.S. studios now include Open Captioned (OC) files on their DCPs. AFI Silver typically schedules at least one OC show per title per week in those cases.

U.S. specialty and independent distributors are inconsistent in providing OC files. When OC files are provided by these distributors, we also schedule at least one OC show per week.

AFI Silver programming includes a large amount of foreign language titles with English subtitles. We have received positive feedback from the deaf and hard of hearing community that these screenings, while only providing dialogue, and not the full detail of OC titling, are nonetheless of value and sought out for attendance.



### **AMC Theatres**

AMC has a nationwide program with 260 locations currently offering showtimes with open captions. The following Maryland locations are participating in this program:

- AMC Rio Cinemas 18 – Gaithersburg
- AMC Owings Mills 17 – Owings Mills
- AMC White Marsh 16 – Baltimore
- AMC Montgomery 16 – Bethesda
- AMC Columbia Mall 14 – Columbia
- AMC MJ Capital Center 12 – Largo
- AMC Wheaton Mall 9 – Wheaton

For all week-one wide release titles with open captions available, open caption showtimes are scheduled for at least one weekend matinee time and one weekday evening. For all blockbuster titles, theaters will play one show per day in its first full week of release, followed by a second week of one weekend matinee and one weekday prime show.

### **Cinemark Theatres**

Cinemark operates two locations in Maryland, and will offer open captioned showtimes on all films that have a full, daily show schedule as follows:

- Cinemark Egyptian 24 – Hanover – Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.
- Cinemark Towson 15 – Towson – Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings.

### **Horizon Cinemas**

Horizon Cinemas will schedule open caption shows upon advanced request through the accessibility page on their website at. site: <https://horizoncinemas.com/about--contact>. locations include:

- Horizon Aberdeen
- Horizon Beltway Movies
- Horizon Fallston
- Horizon Marley Station Movies
- Horizon Sun Valley Movies



### **Landmark Theatres**

Landmark Theatres Bethesda location provides two open-captioned showings per week (Friday thru Thursday) of each new movie with open captioning available for the first two weeks of a movie's release.

- At least one of these two open-captioned showings for every movie during each of the first two weeks will be scheduled during weekend peak movie hours, which are showtimes beginning after 5:59 p.m. and finishing before 11:01 p.m. on Friday; or, showtimes beginning after 11:59 a.m. and finishing before 11:01 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.
- The other open-captioned showing may be scheduled at the theater's discretion.
- Beginning in the third week of a movie's release, the theatre will provide at least one open-captioned showing of that movie per week. The open-captioned showing will be scheduled at the theater's discretion.
- If a movie has seven or fewer scheduled showings in a week, may not provide open-captioned showings for that movie.

### **Old Greenbelt Theatre**

With a robust deaf and hard of hearing community, and its proximity to Gallaudet University, the Old Greenbelt Theatre in Greenbelt, MD plays an open captioned show every Sunday around 2pm if the film is available with open caption.

### **RC Theatres**

RC will schedule open caption shows upon advanced request through the accessibility page on their website at <https://www.rctheatres.com/page?id=12302>. Participating locations include:

- R/C Hollywood Cinema 4 - Arbutus
- R/C Lexington Exchange Movies 12 - California
- R/C Westminster 9 - Westminster

### **Regal Cinemas**

Regal has instituted open captioning programs in the following Maryland locations:

- Regal Majestic 20 – Silver Spring
- Regal Westview 16 – Frederick
- Regal Germantown 14 – Germantown
- Regal Royale 14 - Hyattsville

The weekly open captioning lineup features the top three titles per week according to gross. The top-grossing film will play three times a week on a Friday evening, a Sunday matinee, and a Wednesday matinee. The second highest-grossing film in each week will play with open captions during a Saturday matinee and a Tuesday evening. The third film will play in matinee slot on Mondays and Thursdays.



### **Warehouse Cinemas**

Warehouse Cinemas has a long-standing partnership with local deaf and hard of hearing advocates in Frederick, and representatives from the Maryland School for the Deaf. Each week, they work together to select films and showtimes to offer open captioned shows. They have two locations participating as follows:

- Warehouse Cinemas Frederick 10 – Frederick – Seven to ten open captions shows per week on films selected by feedback.
- Warehouse Cinemas Hagerstown 10 – Hagerstown – At least three open caption shows per week. The number of showtimes will increase with demand and additional film product.

### **ALL LOCATIONS**

#### **Marketing of Open Captioned Films**

NATO members are clearly displaying which showtimes offer open captioning in each of their theatres when patrons purchase a ticket on a theatre's website or at the box office.

#### **Open Captioning Programs Framework**

NATO members operating in Maryland are committed to instituting voluntary open captioning programs on a theater-by-theater basis. A "one-size-fits-all" approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater or the markets in which they operate. Consequently, theater operators are seeking to develop open captioning programs that meet or exceed the demands of the market in which they operate and have developed varying programs to meet those goals.

The current open caption programs will run indefinitely, but no less than at least a year from April 1, 2022. Note, based on consumer feedback and the needs of individual companies, the parameters of these programs may change from time to time to reflect the marketplace.

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For further information, please contact Jenna Massoni (410-935-1470, [jmassoni@cgagroup.com](mailto:jmassoni@cgagroup.com)) or Ellen Valentino (410-693-2226, [evalentino@cgagroup.com](mailto:evalentino@cgagroup.com)) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443-895-1446, [doug@midatlanticnato.com](mailto:doug@midatlanticnato.com)).

**CGA SB 400 UNF 2-16-23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ellen Valentino

Position: UNF



February 16, 2023

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: **SB 400 Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning**

**POSITION: UNFAVORABLE**

Good Afternoon Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

As we represent the Mid-Atlantic National Association of Theater Owners, we are respectfully requesting an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 400. This bill will require theaters provide open captioning for each motion picture it screens for at least 2 screenings each week. In all, a total of 800 open caption shows per week in the state and 41,600 open caption shows per year. A number that just does not have that kind of demand.

During COVID, unlike some other businesses, movie theaters were shuttered in full. Many theaters in the state were completely closed for over a year, and they are still very much in a recovery period. Since the shut down in March of 2020, we estimate our collective **losses at the box office and concessions to be well over \$500 million in Maryland**. Compared to 2019, cumulative losses in Maryland were down (\$219,157,559) in 2020, (\$174,231,883) in 2021, and another (\$100,433,385) in 2022. To date, that is a cumulative loss of (\$493,822,827). Although, there is nothing better than seeing a movie on the big screen, behaviors have changed, and content availability is at the touch of every finger.

As an industry we cannot afford to lose any customers, and it is our goal to ensure every customer that comes to the movies wants to return. Movie theaters will not survive without great customer service and a great experience for movie-goers.

Only one state\* has imposed a similar law – the state of Hawaii. [Linked here](#) is the impact report from the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, and it shows a loss of viewership and revenue in a much smaller market than Maryland. Data in their report shows that **“...the difference in aggregate patron attendance <reduced attendance> between open-caption showings and non-open-caption showings was estimated at 94,755 patrons per year for the two theater companies combined.”**

(\*NYC recently enacted a law in May 2022)

Advocates for the bill say theaters will not be negatively impacted by this bill—yet we have not seen any data to indicate that contention. We would gladly review any studies or meet with any advocates who are willing to share with us on this point.

2 FRANCIS STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 | 410.204.1707



Our industry has been one of the hardest hit. Movie theaters have been at the center of large developments but unfortunately, **Maryland has lost movie theaters to closure**, and sadly we have lost movie goers as well. **This legislation could have unintentional consequences of further alienating some movie goers that avoid open captioned shows and accelerating the closing of more theaters.** We request an unfavorable report.

We have included written testimony submissions from several theater owners, National Association of Theater Owners, and Mid-Atlantic National Association of Theater Owners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Valentino, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Jenna Massoni, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Bernie Marczyk, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Delora Sanchez Ifekauche, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Doug Murdoch, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic National Association of Theater Owners