

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marlene Everhardt and I am Hearing. I live in Harford County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Marlene Everhardt
everhardtm@verizon.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Darlene Ewan
CANtheCANT@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Thomas Fair Jr, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Allegany County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 lost some hearing with age and have trouble understanding speech. Cinema is no longer an enjoyable event for this reason. With an open caption, would be helpful.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Thomas Fair Jr
lamejames@live.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Olarinde Farayola and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Olarinde Farayola
larindesuccess@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shane Feldman and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 been a resident of Maryland for almost 30+ years and throughout my life, my experience with movie captioning in Maryland has always been challenging and I have never fully enjoyed the movie experience. Every attempt to accommodate us has resulted in an experience that feels like the movie theaters do not care about our needs. They know they can get away without because the state allows it. Open captioning would overcome that stigma that our community has endured for decades.

To give a most recent example.

I live near the Regal Laurel Towne Centre in Laurel, MD and since moving back to Maryland have attempted to attend the movie theater with my college-aged, high-school aged, and elementary school-aged children. However, each and every time I have been there I spent a considerable amount of time asking the staff to fix the closed captioning glasses system and they have been generally ambivalent and tell me that "corporate hasn't fixed the system for us" in over a year. As a way to make me better, they have given me free passes to come back to the movie theater, exclusive only to Regal Laurel Towne Centre and each time we have used it to come back, the system still doesn't work and I end up watching the rest of the movie with my kids so they can enjoy the experience. However, I cannot talk with them about what happened because I do not know what happened.

This needs to stop. All closed captioning needs to be replaced with the option to turn on open captions so we can watch the movie with our families, children, and friends with the same joy

that our hearing community can do with their families and peers. Do not trust corporations that promise newfangled technology that they think will work for us, listen to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community about what works for us and enforce them upon the corporations that do not have a vested interest in our well-being.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Shane Feldman
shanefeldman@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jacob Fender, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Allegany County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Jacob Fender
jacob.fender@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Maria Fernandes and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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I am getting old and I have age-related hearing loss. I am a movie enthusiast so I need movies to be open captioned at movie theater in Maryland. Not only I need open captioned movies, but also my son and my daughter in law are deaf as they need movies to be open captioned at the movie theater.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Maria Fernandes
ferns.zac@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 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.

Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 in other countries experiencing to watch many open captioned movies and subtitled movies. When I came to the U.S. in 1980, I wondered why most movies at the US movie theaters were not open-captioned yet. I waited too long. Now is 2024. Most movies are still not open-captioned yet so requesting movies to be open-captioned at theaters gave me headaches. Open-captioning movies at movie theaters shouldn't be an issue. Everyone can upgrade their skills by learning to read open captions. It would be helpful to be very educated. Many international film festivals, including Cannes and Venice, already include open captions or subtitles in multiple languages on the screen. Even international audiences in many countries loved to watch open-captioned movies or subtitled movies being subtitled in multiple languages on the screen and they were never distracted by either open-captioned movies or subtitled movies. They are smarter than US people.

A study found that only 22% of viewers find subtitles more distracting than helpful, from which it can be inferred that over three-quarters of potential viewers don't find subtitles distracting. The study also 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 when they don't use subtitles.

It would be good for the US because there are many foreign-speaking people, people with hearing loss including military personnel, deaf people whose first language is ASL, people with disabilities, elders with hearing loss, and a general audience who want to understand English rather than having hard times hearing strong accents prefer open captioning. Why wait so long to make movies open captioning without hassles? We know that It is not costly and it won't affect the movie theater business. The inclusion of open captions in international film festivals and movies in many countries demonstrates that it is indeed a feasible and widely accepted practice. I support both bills and hope these bills will be passed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Roy Fernandes
royfern@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 of the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, children and adults learning to read, and 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 originally from India and have been raised to watch movies with subtitles in different languages along with English which was extremely beneficial. I was raised to prefer English-language dubbing when watching a foreign-language movie or show in India. The lack of open captions in movies in the United States is disappointing and presents a barrier to fully enjoying the cinematic experience. It is not fair to me and other citizens to wait for special times. This is not considered freedom when it comes to having no captioned movies whereas the United States is a free country?!

Additionally, while consuming media in the language you want to learn is a great way to immerse yourself, only 26% of Americans have used subtitles to learn a new language. If you're up for the challenge, try a foreign language film (<https://preply.com/en/blog/most-popular-foreign-films/>) with English subtitles, and see if you can start to understand some phrases. Why not open captioning movies in English? It would be helpful for everyone.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Sherry Fernandes
sherryaryafern@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Feta Fernsler, and I am Deaf.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 live next door to Maryland and sometimes swing by for events there. I am 20 minutes away from Maryland. I did try to watch a movie during a mini-vacation with no luck. No Open Caption movies were available nearby so we used CaptiView but the signal to sync captions was malfunctioning. We had missed more than 20 minutes of introductions and 2 check-ins despite having arrived 1 hour early for the movie to get good seats. It was for Barbie which was important as we had no idea why a bad day was happening.

In my experience, Open Caption showings have the least number of issues encountered to date. It also frees up my cup holder for drinks or snacks too. That makes it easier to have a date and hold hands!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Feta Fernsler
endfates@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jodi Ferrell, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Jodi Ferrell
wittj19904@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Thomas Ferrell, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ferrell
tomaferrell@icloud.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Monique Fetzer, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Even as a hearing person, I often find the dialogue difficult to understand. Examples include unusual names or heavy accents. I frequently leave the captioning on when watching television which helps because I am a visual learner.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Monique Fetzer
mfetzer101@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Angela Fiastro and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Angela Fiastro
angela.fiastro@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is John Fine, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

John Fine
jfine24@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Matthew Fisher, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Matthew Fisher
matthew.fisher2010@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rachel Fleming and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fleming
racflem@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Jessica Flinchum
jessica.orr@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Michele Floam
mfloam@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Alexis Flowers
alexis.flowers@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rochelle Focaracci and I am Hearing.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Focaracci
digandkick@bellsouth.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kiana Fok, and I am Hearing, and a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Kiana Fok
kianafok@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Adeoluwa Folami, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 captioning is a way to ensure the accessibility rights of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing communities in Maryland. The potential benefit to all communities when this bill is approved cannot be quantified, but will be seen in the increased tolerance, love and understanding we show to one another, and in how we become more inclusive as a society and state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Adeoluwa Folami
adeoluwafolami@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Noel Fon
noel-fon@pgcps.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Christina Fonseca-Graddy, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426- Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 OC is essential for 2 reasons, 1) eventually I'll lose the rest of my hearing and would appreciate very much to enjoy movies as understanding what is being said and 2) coming from a part Hispanic family (was adopted by a Hispanic dad) with many friends whom are learning English as a 2nd language is essential to use in a daily lifestyle.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Christina Fonseca-Graddy
christinafonseca86@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ashley Ford, and I am Hearing.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ford
ashleyford777@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is James Ford, III and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

James Ford, III
jameswfordiii@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Angie Foster, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Angie Foster
angie18foster@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Leslie Foxman, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 supporter of the Deaf Community for over 30 years, many colleagues and friends would benefit directly from this bill, and we could go see a NEW movie TOGETHER and have EQUAL ACCESS SIMULTANEOUSLY. We'd go out for a meal before or after, because that is what we do. And buy popcorn anyway. There is absolutely no downside to open captioning. It is also great for people learning English as a second language, and for seniors and veterans experiencing age- or trauma- related hearing-loss. Millions of people would benefit from passage of this bill, and it would stimulate the economy....most people don't go see movies alone, but with a friend or a group of friends, each buying their own ticket and snacks, etc.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Leslie Foxman
lesfoxman@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Dante Francois and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Dante Francois
wipeoutiv@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Pam Frank and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Pam Frank
Pamelalynne80@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Hilary Franklin and I am Deaf, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Hilary Franklin
hilary.franklin@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennifer Fraser, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fraser
fraserac67@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joan Frederickson and I am Hearing. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 of the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, children and adults learning to read, and 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, the same as other people who go to the movie.

I am a hearing person but I am in my 60s and I find that I like having captions when watching movies and as I get older, I am sure that I will need them more, this bill will be beneficial to many people and is such a small thing to help others.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Joan Frederickson
Joan7of9@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Harry Friedman and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Harry Friedman
harryo714@comcast.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Eryn Frischkorn, and I am Hearing.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Eryn Frischkorn
eefst1@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ruth Ann Frohn, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Frohn
froglady50@comcast.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amy Fry and I am Hearing, also a person learning English as a second language. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Amy Fry
Amyjeanfry@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Judy Gaatelum and I am Deaf, also a person learning English as a second language. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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, the same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Judy Gaatelum
Judygastelum@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Carrie Gale, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Carrie Gale
cargale76@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Silvia Gallareta and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Silvia Gallareta
Flaquis925@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mike Grantz, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Mike Grantz
msgantz@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Susan Gantz
sue_gantz@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Dolly Gardner and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Dolly Gardner
sweetlimedg@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jordan Garrison and I am Hearing.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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, the same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Jordan Garrison
Jordangarrison1997@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mary Geffert, and I am Hearing.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 an ASL/Eng interpreter for over 30 years. I spent a large part of my career as an educational interpreter and have seen first hand the benefits of captioning. Open captioning not only benefits the DHH communities but many other populations as well. It aids in reading learners. Please know the depth of benefit passing this bill would be.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Mary Geffert
mairs@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joanne Geppert, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Joanne Geppert
jostaub60@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joanna Gerhardt, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Joanna Gerhardt
joanna.gerhardt77@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rebecca Gettel and I am Hearing. I live in Allegany County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gettel
beccalynn214@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gwynn Gibbons and I am Hearing. I live in Caroline County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning 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.

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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Gwynn Gibbons
4gibbons@comcast.net