

# **HB426 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Pic**

Uploaded by: Abigail Snyder

Position: FAV

**OFFICERS**

ELIZABETH GREEN  
 President  
 ROBIN WEIMAN  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
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Adat Chaim Congregation  
 American Jewish Committee  
 Americans for Peace Now  
 Baltimore Chapter  
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee  
 American Red Magen David for Israel  
 American Zionist Movement  
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 Association of Reform Zionists of America  
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 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation  
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 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation  
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation  
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation  
 Temple Beth Shalom  
 Temple Isaiah  
 Zionist Organization of America  
 Baltimore District

**Written Testimony**  
**House Bill 426 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture**  
**Houses - Captioning**  
**Economic Matters Committee – February 6, 2024**  
**Support**

**Background: House Bill 426** would require that all motion picture houses offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require 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.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. This includes the Jewish Connection Network, which has an entire department dedicated to ensuring that every member of our community, regardless of their background or abilities, can fully embrace Jewish life.

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Going to the movies is one of the most enjoyable pastimes. By providing open and/or closed captioning, Maryland would be expanding the accessibility to an even wider audience.

Choosing to support this legislation is a no-brainer that can make a huge difference for the deaf community, those with any type of hearing loss, or any other individuals who benefit from open and/or closed captioning. **For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB426.**

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**Archdiocese of Baltimore HB 426 SB 92 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



INSTITUTE FOR  
*Evangelization*  
ARCHDIOCESE of BALTIMORE

January 31, 2024

Dear Maryland Legislature:

I am writing on behalf of Deaf Ministry - Archdiocese of Baltimore in support of HB 426 and SB 92-Open Captioning Movie Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari and Senator Benjamin Brooks. The Bill would require each movie theater to add onscreen captions on all movies at least two (2) times per week, in an effort to make moviegoing more accessible.

Deaf Ministry - Archdiocese of Baltimore serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals from Western Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay. Twenty percent of individuals have a hearing loss. It is important that they have full access to the movies shown in theaters.

Many people would benefit from onscreen captioning of movies. We have members and family members who are deaf, who are hard of hearing, who are neurodivergent, learning to read, learning English, and/or elderly. These are just some of the people who would benefit from onscreen captioning. Many hearing people also appreciate captions so they don't miss dialogue in movies.

Current mandated technologies, including glasses or "cup holder" technologies are often difficult to use and provide a sub-optimal viewing experience for users, since they must attempt to view the movie and captioning through these devices at the same time. They may also be uncomfortable with disclosing their disability to the theater.

Showing onscreen captioned movies twice per week would allow all moviegoers the opportunity to better understand the dialogue of the movie they are watching. Millions of people use onscreen captioning when watching television at home for this reason.

We are therefore supportive of HB 426 and SB-92 and hope that the Bill moves forward as it would allow more people to fully experience and enjoy movies in Maryland – benefiting residents, visitors, and movie theaters.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Duck  
Coordinator of Deaf Ministry  
Archdiocese of Baltimore

# **Autism Society of Maryland HB 426.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



TO: Economic Matters  
FROM: Autism Society of Maryland  
DATE: February 6, 2024  
RE: HB0426 - Letter of Support

The Autism Society of Maryland (AUSOM), formerly the Howard County Autism Society, would like to express its strong support for HB0426, a bill requiring open caption moving showings in theaters at least once a month.

More than a decade ago, one of our AUSOM parents went to a movie 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, 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 HB0426 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, HB0426 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 HB0426!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Rosenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melissa Rosenberg  
Executive Director

# Bay Area CIL HB 426 and SB 92 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

**Bay Area Center**   
for **Independent Living**

31516 Winter Place Parkway, Suite 100 Salisbury MD, 21804  
Tel: 443-260-0822 Fax: 443-260-0833

1/29/24

Dr. Katherine L.R. Jones  
Bay Area Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
31516 Winterplace Pkwy.  
Salisbury, MD 21804

Dear MD Delegate/Senator:

On behalf of Bay Area Center for Independent Living, I would like to show my support for SB 92 and HB 426 for open captioned movies. Individuals of all abilities would benefit if movie theatres provided open captioned films for at least two screenings a week. After looking into the matter on the Eastern Shore, I discovered that if an individual would like to see an open captioned film, they would have to reserve a private screening online, purchase a minimum of 10 tickets in advance, and provide at least a 7-day notification to Regal Cinemas. To make it even more confusing, open captioning is not an option in the drop-down menu for private screenings. Why does it have to be this difficult? Let's level the playing field.

On behalf of Bay Area Center for Independent Living, I am requesting that you support SB 92 and HB 426.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Katherine L.R. Jones, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A.

Executive Director

[Kjones@bayareacil.org](mailto:Kjones@bayareacil.org)

# **BCAD HB 426 Open Captioning Movie Bill.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD) regarding **HB 426-Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

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

Jacob Leffler  
President  
bcadeaf2020@gmail.com

**DIG HB 426 and SB 92 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



January 29, 2024

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

Dear the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Deaf In Government (DIG), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, serves as a support group for local, state, and federal employees who are deaf or hard of hearing and as a resource for government entities. On behalf of our members who are Maryland residents, DIG supports the passage of the Open Captioning Movie Bill HB 426 and SB 92 regarding movie theater captioning.

The current closed captioning (CC) technology in Maryland movie theaters are often not maintained which leads to the caption boxes or glasses to 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. Additionally, these devices are inaccessible for some deaf people with vision or physical impairments who are unable to use them. With the broken and inaccessible equipment, this is not an effective, inclusive way to provide an equitable movie going experience.

National Association of Theatre Owners and the movie theaters are only tracking the numbers of paid admission tickets, not the number of people who leave the movie before it ends, or the number of vouchers given out to return another time. This lack of a complaint system is one that has proven to be problematic for many Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing patrons.

Open Captioning (OC), in contrast, is better suited to an equitable movie going experience, less prone to failure, costs nothing, and enables deaf and hard of hearing theater patrons to participate in the experience, while also benefiting a wider segment of the public (children, seniors, the Deaf, those learning English as a second language, etc.).

We ask for your vote in support of the Open Captioning Movie Bill HB 426 and SB 92.

Thank you,

Deaf In Government

P.O Box 76087  
Washington, DC 20013-6087  
W: [www.deafingov.org](http://www.deafingov.org)  
E: [ContactDeafInGov@gmail.com](mailto:ContactDeafInGov@gmail.com)



# **DILA HB 426 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



January 30, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 426 Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

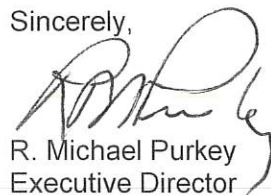
As a provider of human services for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, we encourage you to support HB 426. We believe that the time has come due to ensure that movie theaters provide more open captioned movie options, since there are currently very limited options when theaters decide for themselves on a voluntary basis.

It is currently very difficult for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to enjoy going to the movie theater. Oftentimes, the captioning devices being offered either are not sufficiently charged, breaking down, or not enough available devices. Plus, the malfunctioning devices are very distracting not only to the individuals using them, but to the people in the line of sight in the immediate surrounding area.

The solution is simple in eliminating the abovementioned frustrations: Open Captions.

Open captioning also helps with other types of disabilities. The bottom line is that everyone deserves to have equal access to the movie theater experience. Please ensure the passage of HB 426.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Purkey  
Executive Director

# **HASA Support Letter HB 426 SB92.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

2/1/24

Dear Maryland Legislature:

I am writing to express my support on behalf of HASA, Maryland's only nonprofit organization providing interpreting services, for HB 426 and SB 92 - the Open Captioning Movie Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari and Senator Benjamin Brooks. This bill proposes the requirement for movie theaters to include onscreen captions for all movies at least two times per week, with the aim of enhancing accessibility for moviegoers.

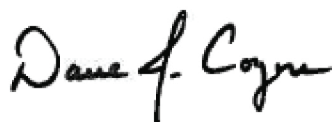
HASA connects people to their worlds and aids individuals in their ability to understand and to be understood. We firmly believe that everyone deserves the implementation of onscreen captioning for movies and that this access would be highly beneficial to a wide range of individuals. This includes those who are deaf, hard of hearing, neurodivergent, learning to read, learning English, and/or elderly. Moreover, even hearing individuals find captions beneficial.

Presently, the mandated technologies such as glasses or "cup holder" devices can be challenging to use and do not provide an optimal or adequate viewing experience for users. These devices require moviegoers to simultaneously view the movie and the captions, which can be cumbersome. Additionally, some individuals may feel uncomfortable disclosing their disability to the theater. By featuring onscreen captioning at least twice a week, all moviegoers would have the opportunity to fully comprehend the dialogue of the movies they watch. This mirrors the millions of people who rely on onscreen captioning when watching television at home.

Therefore, we fully support HB 426 and SB 92 and hope that these bills progress further. Their enactment would enable a broader audience to fully experience and enjoy movies in Maryland, benefiting residents, visitors, and movie theaters alike.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dave Coyne, Language Access and Inclusion Director

# **Jewish Council of Baltimore HB 426 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

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 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance  
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 Beth Am Congregation  
 Beth El Congregation  
 Beth Israel Congregation  
 Beth Shalom Congregation of  
 Howard County  
 Beth Tfiloh Congregation  
 B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region  
 B'nai Israel Congregation  
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation  
 Bolton Street Synagogue  
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.  
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation  
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation  
 Congregation Beit Tikvah  
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel  
 Federation of Jewish Women's  
 Organizations of Maryland  
 Hadassah  
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation  
 J Street  
 Jewish Federation of Howard County  
 Jewish Labor Committee  
 Jewish War Veterans  
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary  
 Jewish Women International  
 Jews For Judaism  
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah  
 Hebrew Congregation  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 Ner Tamid Congregation  
 Rabbinical Council of America  
 Religious Zionists of America  
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation  
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation  
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation  
 Temple Beth Shalom  
 Temple Isaiah  
 Zionist Organization of America  
 Baltimore District

**Written Testimony**  
**House Bill 426 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture**  
**Houses - Captioning**  
**Economic Matters Committee – February 6, 2024**  
**Support**

**Background: House Bill 426** would require that all motion picture houses offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require 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.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. This includes the Jewish Connection Network, which has an entire department dedicated to ensuring that every member of our community, regardless of their background or abilities, can fully embrace Jewish life.

The U.S. hard-of-hearing population parallels the U.S. Jewish population. And while there are no resources to correlate deaf statistics to the Jewish population, there is no reason to assume the percentage of deaf Jews is other than that of the general population. It can be estimated that 0.22 percent of U.S. Jews, more than 14,000 people, are deaf; 2.2 percent of U.S. Jews, nearly 142,000 people, have a lot of trouble hearing; and 2.05 percent of Jews worldwide, some 271,256 people, have disabling hearing impairment.

Going to the movies is one of the most enjoyable pastimes. By providing open and/or closed captioning, Maryland would be expanding the accessibility to an even wider audience.

Choosing to support this legislation is a no-brainer that can make a huge difference for the deaf community, those with any type of hearing loss, or any other individuals who benefit from open and/or closed captioning. **For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB426.**

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*

# **Parent Advocacy Consortium HB 426 - SB 92 Support.**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



January 28, 2024

Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of HB 426 / SB 92: Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Closed Captioning**

Members of the Maryland House's Economic Matters Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 plus members fully support HB 426 / SB 92, 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 is still recovering from lagging ticket sales due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We ask movie house operators to Include all of our families in more of their daily operations and movie screenings.

We thank the Delegate Bhandari 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 HB 426 / SB 92. 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>



**Wash-CAP HB 426 and SB 92.pdf**

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

22 January 2024

Dear Maryland Legislature,

The Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP or <https://Wash-CAP.com>) supports the two open captioning (OC) bills: Senate Bill 92 and House Bill 426 (SB92 and HB426).

Wash-CAP is a Washington State non-profit. We are focused on implementing captions and text accommodations for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). Most people who are DHH do not sign and need captions to understand movies. Sadly, when there are no captions in the theaters' movies, folks who are DHH stay home and watch movies on their TV or devices (or skip movies).

CC was a good start. However, open captioned shows are important. Different data points indicate the CC method just isn't working for people who are DHH. At home, we watch all TV and movies with open captions. When we know the theater has open captions, we will go see the movies.

We hope the Maryland legislature passes this bill. It will help in Maryland, but then will help us work on this in Washington state too.

Thank you,

Dean Olson  
President  
The Washington Communication Access Project ([Wash-CAP](https://Wash-CAP.com))

# **MaCCRA 2024 Testimony - Support - House Bill 426 -**

Uploaded by: Bruce Hartung

Position: FAV



## Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association

**The Voice of Continuing Care Residents**

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 426 - Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning  
**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters Committee, The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair  
**DATE:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal mission of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and to create and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

**On behalf of Maryland Continuing Care Residents, we support House Bill 426**, which requires Maryland movie theaters to offer closed captions on all screenings, and theater chains with two or more locations to provide two open-captioned screenings each week.

A substantial proportion of the population we represent suffer from hearing deficits, yet wish to continue to enjoy a full life, including going to the movies. Without captioning and being unable to hear and understand dialogue, there is no point for them in buying a ticket to a movie. While the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires movie theaters to provide closed captioning, many theaters currently have equipment that does not work properly or does not work at all. More importantly, even when in good repair, using these devices is cumbersome, inconvenient, and often difficult. Looking back and forth between the device and the screen interferes with full comprehension and pleasurable viewing. Having open captions provides a very welcome alternative to using these devices and makes going to the movies once again possible and enjoyable.

Captions benefit many people, not only elders who struggle with hearing loss, but other deaf and hard of hearing viewers. In addition, those learning English, those who have auditory processing issues, those who struggle with accents, and people learning to read find captions helpful if not essential.

For these reasons we support House Bill 426 and ask for a favorable report.

**For further information please contact:** Bruce Hartung, President  
Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association c/o [brucehartung@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucehartung@sbcglobal.net)

# **IL Written Testimony HB 426 of 2024 FINAL.pdf**

Uploaded by: Chris Kelter

Position: FAV



## **House Bill 426: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

### **Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living**

#### **SUPPORT**

House Economic Matters, February 6, 2024

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

The Independent Living Network submits this written testimony in strong **support** of HB 426.

As an employee of the Centers for Independent Living and advocate for people with a disability, I was pleased to see House Bill 426. I have Deaf friends and colleagues and am a person who benefits from captioning for other reasons. Were it not for closed captioning, one of my closest friends would not attend movies because, despite their use of a hearing aid, they also have a disability that impacts how they process information. This bill can support people with disabilities and bring people back to the movies, including many people who might not typically visit a movie theatre. I believe the cost of close captioning will be offset by the increased attendance of those who cannot now attend including those who are hearing impaired or have certain processing disorders.

This bill requires that a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases at least two motion picture houses in Maryland provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week. This action supports good business practice and promotes universal design. It removes the burden from the individual who would typically have to request a small handheld captioning device in advance of attending a movie screening. I have heard stories of theatres not having these captioning devices on sight, or that the devices available were not functioning properly. My friend shares with me that asking for this device is yet one more nuisance that deters them from going to see a movie. Thus, they are missing out on an opportunity to socialize and build community. For most people without disabilities going to the movies is a fun activity of convenience, and people with disabilities deserve an equitable community living experience whereby they can participate in all sectors of society – including

recreation and leisure. If a customer does not want to view a movie with open captions, they can choose to attend a different screening.

This bill can help theatres recover from business losses during the pandemic, and likewise create a more welcoming environment for people with disabilities.

The Maryland Independent Network strongly **supports** HB 426 and urges a **favorable** report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Ashinghurst". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Erin Ashinghurst, MS  
Deputy Director of Supports and Services  
Accessible Resources for Independence

**Contact Information:**

Chris Kelter, Executive Director  
Accessible Resources for Independence  
443-713-3914  
ckelter@arinow.org

**HB 426 MCCR Close Caption Movie Theaters.02.06.24.**

Uploaded by: Cleveland Horton

Position: FAV





# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

*Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication*

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**Lt. Governor**  
Aruna Miller

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February 6, 2024

## **House Bill 0426 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning**

### **POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairperson Wilson, Vice Chairperson Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, health services and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

House Bill 426 would require motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain screenings each week. The difference between the two captioning options is that closed captioning can be turned on and off by the viewer, while open captioning cannot be turned off by a viewer. A place of public accommodation that owns, controls, or operates at least two motion picture houses must provide open captioning for each motion picture it screens each week that is produced and offered with closed captioning for at least one screening during a weekday and one screening during the weekend. The bill excludes smaller entities and ensures that the frequency requirement is not too cumbersome.

Watching movies is an American pastime that generates billions of dollars in ticket sales each year and it is important to ensure that all citizens have equal access to public accommodations. Nationally, there are approximately thirty million Americans that are hearing impaired. Hearing impaired citizens often struggle to engage with video media because the current accommodations fall short. For example, special glasses that are provided to display captions are often uncomfortable or malfunctioning. There are over a million Maryland citizens that struggle with hearing loss and would immediately benefit from this legislation. Further, captions can also help emerging readers, visual learners, and nonnative speakers. While there are many alternatives to increasing access to video content, the most effective and inclusive method is captions. Hawaii became the first in the nation in 2015 to require theaters to play open captions for at least two showings a week of each movie, catering to 3,700 Hawaiians on an island of nearly one and a half million people.

*“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”*

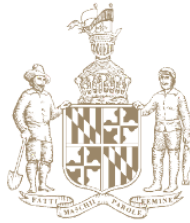
William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1631  
Phone: 410-767-8600 · Toll Free: 1-800-637-6247 · Maryland Relay: 711 · Fax: 410-333-1841  
Website: [mccr.maryland.gov](http://mccr.maryland.gov) · E-Mail: [mccr@maryland.gov](mailto:mccr@maryland.gov)

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on HB 426. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

# **HB 426 Testimony.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Harry Bhandari

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

2/6/2024

**Testimony in support of HB 426**  
**Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

**HB 426** would require movie theaters to offer open captioning by displaying the written text of the audio content on the big screen. This way, they can follow the dialogue and sound effects in real time without the need for a separate device, such as a handheld closed captioning device. In addition, open captioning ensures that they have the same access to the movie-going experience as everyone else, improving their overall enjoyment and engagement with the content.

Smaller theaters might offer a handful of screenings per week. Others might offer a dozen or more. I don't think it's an overreach to ask that just two include captions. Frankly, when we weigh the number of people this would benefit against the number it would hurt, it's surprising movie theaters don't already do this.

Many of the dozens of testimonials supporting this bill focus on its impact on deaf and hard-of-hearing people, a group that has historically been locked out of moviegoing entirely. In recent years, some developments have made it possible for these folks to attend screenings with closed captions shown on little handheld devices. Still, these have to be proactively requested, can be distracting, out of sync, or plagued with technical problems. Just take a moment to imagine that you're at the movies, and there's no sound. You have to glance back and forth between the action on the screen and a little device in your lap to keep track of what everyone is saying. Does that sound like it's worth the ever-higher price of a ticket?

Let us remember the vulnerable populations in our society. Seniors may struggle to hear every word in a movie with intense sound effects. Would they prefer to read captions on a small handheld screen? Or parents who want their children to expand their vocabulary and improve their literacy, as studies have shown that watching movies with captions can positively impact a child's literacy skills. And what about English learners of all ages, who are not only trying to comprehend the dialogue, but also the cultural references and humor that will help them improve their communication skills? Open captioning on the big screen can make these potential customers feel more welcomed and included in the movie-going experience.

Movie theater owners have reached out to me to express their concerns. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the industry. However, this bill has the potential to help the industry recover rather than hinder it. That is why I am bringing it to your attention. My goal is to attract more customers and support local businesses. I understand that not everyone may prefer open captions, so I am not proposing a universal requirement. Customers who strongly object to open captions can attend a different showing. Unfortunately, too many people have been denied access to movie-going for a long time, and this bill will help to change that.

Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Offering open captioning in movie theaters is a small step toward creating a more inclusive and accessible experience for everyone, particularly for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals who might otherwise be excluded or face difficulties following the audio content.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Bhandari", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honorable Delegate Harry Bhandari  
Maryland Legislative District 8

# 101-150.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ken Bower, and I am Deaf. I live in Talbot 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,

Ken Bower  
kayaker1879@gmai.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shirley Bower, and I am Deaf. I live in Talbot 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,

Shirley Bower  
shirleybower27@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shamia Bowers, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in St. Mary'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.

As a person that struggles to hear clearly I always turn captions on when it's an option. One of the main reasons I've drastically changed my movie going habits is due to the lack of captions on screen. The lack of captions makes it impossible to enjoy the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Shamia Bowers  
miaaworm2@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Paige Bradford, and I am 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.

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 going to the movies, but the CaptiView machines often break or don't work. When this happens, I have to spend the majority of my time going out to the service desk to try and get it repaired. The current open captioned offerings at my local theaters are limited to specific movies and are during the workday, which means I have to wait for movies to be released so I can stream them. Having more open captioned options for all of the movies would allow me the same opportunities as people without APD.

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

Sincerely,

Paige Bradford  
pkbradford11@comcast.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lori Brady 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.

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,

Lori Brady  
lrbnscb@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Christina Bragg and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Wicomico 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.

We believe that the time has come, due to ensuring that movie theaters provide more open captioned movie options, since there are currently very limited options when theaters decide for themselves on a voluntary basis.

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

Sincerely,

Christina Bragg  
loubragg23@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Avril Brandon, and I am Hearing. 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.

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 allows me to understand everything that's going on or what I may have missed that may have been said in the distance of a movie/show. This would benefit everyone as a whole.

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

Sincerely,

Avril Brandon  
avril.brandon11@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michael Darrin Brecheen 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.

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 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,

Michael Darrin Brecheen  
darrinbrecheen@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Zakarias Brookes, and I am Hearing. 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.

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 many friends that are hard of hearing or deaf. I think everyone should be able to enjoy going to the movies. Many times, one of my friends in particular seems bored when he goes places that don't have hearing impaired accommodations for him. Going to the movies with a friend is a social experience even though you don't speak to one another during the film. Everyone should be able to enjoy the film in a theater right when it comes out with a friend.

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

Sincerely,

Zakarias Brookes  
zakbrookes@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jeremy Brown and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Charles 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,

Jeremy Brown  
jlbrown816@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is LaVonia Brown and I am Hard of 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.

I cherish the idea of enjoying a movie outing with my family, yet it becomes a considerable challenge. Juggling the CC stick, along with snacks and drinks for myself and my children, proves cumbersome. Once seated, the frustration mounts as the CC stick often malfunctions, prompting multiple trips and causing me to miss approximately 15 minutes of the film. This unnecessary hassle underscores the importance of open captioning in movies, enabling my family and me to relish the experience without unnecessary hindrances. We, too, are entitled to savor movies just like our hearing counterparts.

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

Sincerely,

LaVonia Brown  
sunshinetweety72@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lucinda Brown, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Lucinda Brown  
lucindabrown.hasff@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Steph Brown, 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.

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,

Steph Brown  
StephBrown2010@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Vanishe Buchanan 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,

Vanishe Buchanan  
vanishe.buchanan@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Theresa Buckle, and I am Deaf. 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.

Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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,

Theresa Buckle  
tbdo015@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jon Budar-Danoff and I am Hearing. 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 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.

We started using the closed-captioning option on our TV more than 20 years ago when our neighbor who is Deaf would come to the house. It became a habit, and we prefer to watch TV -- and movies, whether on disc or streaming -- with the captions on, as it helps us understand what's going on if the speaker is mumbling or the words are otherwise unclear. As a bonus, sometimes the captions tell you the artist and name of the song playing as background music. I strongly support Open Captioning in movie theaters as a way to provide Deaf or hard-of-hearing people the opportunity to watch a movie on a big screen. Having captions would be beneficial not only to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community but also to those learning English. My family and I have benefited from having captioning available at home, and would very much like to see the larger community have the option to watch movies on the big screen with Open Captioning.

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

Sincerely,

Jon Budar-Danoff  
jon.budardanoff@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lee Budar-Danoff and I am Hearing. 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 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.

We support open captioning to make movies more equally accessible for the deaf/hard-of-hearing community as well as others with hearing loss, and neurodivergent & auditory processing disorders. We have used captions at home for many years. It enabled our kids to follow along with shows and movies we watched when they were young and accelerated their reading skills as a result. We also benefit from the clarification of dialogue provided with captions. Having open captions at movies would facilitate the understanding and enjoyment of those for the hearing public as well.

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

Sincerely,

Lee Budar-Danoff  
punahougirl84@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Margaret Budar-Danoff and I am Hearing, also a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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 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 have ADHD and prefer using captions for movies, shows, and online videos (like on YouTube) to help me better understand what I'm hearing (even as a hearing person myself). Open captioning is useful for everyone, and it's important that not only are there captions at all but that the captions are accurate! Some movies already have captions in them if there's another language used, so it isn't much of a stretch to have captions for the rest of the movie too.

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Budar-Danoff  
noe.budardanoff@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Thomas Bull, and I am Hard of 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.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Bull  
mrcoda@msn.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brianne Burger, 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.

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,

Brianne Burger  
burgertravels@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Cheryl Burgess-Burghardt, 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.

My sister-in-law and her husband live in Maryland. They are both deaf. When visiting them, we love to go to the movies, but without open captioning, they most often opt out. I am always saddened that this easy accommodation removes the opportunity to enjoy this experience together. As a teacher, I am keenly aware of creating inclusive opportunities for all, and strongly support Maryland's Open Captioning Movies Bill for Movie Theaters as a move to make movie viewing an equal opportunity for Maryland's Deaf community.

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burgess-Burghardt  
chburgessburghardt@rochesterschools.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is David Burghardt, and I am Hard of 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.

I have a sibling who is a Maryland resident, who is deaf. We've gone to movies together our entire lives, and I have seen her experience frustrations and difficulties with non-captioned movies and devices that are supposed to provide captioning for an individual movie-goer. Also, as a senior citizen with minor hearing loss, I often appreciate captioning for my own needs.

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

Sincerely,

David Burghardt  
daveburghardt1@mac.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Heidi Burghardt, 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.

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.

We must have equal access to entertainment for everyone, including those with a neurodivergent or other similar medical conditions. Access to open captions in movies should ideally be made more convenient for all citizens. Some theaters have started offering open captions for selected showings, but it's not always convenient, especially when we have to travel to specific locations that are not near our home and it is not always evenly distributed across different theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Burghardt  
HABurghardt@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Keith Burisek, 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,

Keith Burisek  
keithburisek@ymail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mark Burke, 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.

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,

Mark Burke  
mark@streetcar82.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Teresa Burke 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.

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 a DC resident who has been attending movies in Silver Spring Maryland for years.. In addition, the experiences I have had with various accommodation devices (glasses, reflecting screen inserted in the drink holder, and others) have been cumbersome and sometimes painful, triggering migraines and neck spasms. Please consider passing the Open Captioning Movies Bill -- you will not only improve the quality of life for those of us viewing films in Maryland, you will also be a trailblazing state in supporting true inclusion!

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Burke  
teresablankmeyerburke@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Savannah Burris and I am Hard of Hearing. 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.

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,

Savannah Burris  
sav.burris@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rebecca Burrows, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Talbot 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.

As a person who appreciates closed captions for auditory clarity, I think this is an incredibly helpful and powerful bill that enshrines accessibility into Maryland law and sends a message that the State cares about those who are differently abled. I know many of my friends will also be grateful to hear of this effort, including two who are Hard of Hearing, and would be excited to see more captioned films in theaters. It would certainly benefit the businesses to have more customers!

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Burrows  
raburrows2022@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sarah Burton Doleac and I am Deaf. 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Burton Doleac  
Sarah.doleac@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Chloe Burton, and I am Hearing. 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.

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.

In the past few years, I started to use captions in all movies and television I consume. The captions are great because I can now catch all of the dialogue. Accents, voices, and other factors make it hard to know everything that is being said. Open Captions do not take away from the visuals and it helps audience members keep up with all the dialogue. Open Captions in movie theaters would make those spaces that much more accessible for all people.

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

Sincerely,

Chloe Burton  
chloherthaburton@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Stacy Burvant and I am Deaf, and a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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.

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,

Stacy Burvant  
sburvant@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nakita Bush 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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Most importantly, 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 sometimes use captioning as a method when a movie is either in another language or I have a hard time understanding what's being said by actors or in action movies. I like to have captioning as an added plus and I firmly believe everyone benefits from captioning in some way. I strongly support open captions at movie theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Nakita Bush  
Nakitabush@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Buxbaum and I am Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind. 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.

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,

Jeffrey Buxbaum  
wsjd01@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennifer Bysko 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.

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,

Jennifer Bysko  
Jbysko@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jill Caha, and I am DeafBlind. 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.

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,

Jill Caha  
jilanca65@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Leslie Caldwell, and I am Hard of Hearing. 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.

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.

There have been many times I have gone to the movies with hearing friends and family and would have to depend on them for things I have missed during the movie, whether it was a funny joke or a person whispering something that was unclear for me to understand. With the passing of the Open Captioning Bill, I would no longer have to rely on my hearing counterparts while watching the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Leslie Caldwell  
lrcaldwell29@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rhonda Caldwell, and I am Deaf. I live in Wicomico 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,

Rhonda Caldwell  
chloherthaburton@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters 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 **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 need captions when at the movie theaters to understand and follow the dialogue due to the sound effects drowning out the spoken words. The theater nearest me doesn't offer on screen captioning as an option and my only choice is the stick caption device. 9 times out of 10 there is an issue with this device- it lags behind, doesn't show the correct parts of what is being said on screen, stops working altogether, not to mention you have to hold it at a certain angle for it to be seen while looking at the screen. With any movement you spend more time making it work you're missing the movie. With all that, I avoid going to the movie theaters and watch movies at home with the included close captioning. With open captioning available, it would make it easier to enjoy the movies in the theater like everyone else.

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

Sincerely,

Brandie Callender  
brpomplon@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Robert Callis and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Wicomico 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.

My Wife and daughter both teach in Somerset County and my wife uses hearing aids and daughter can not hear out of one ear and both use captioning. I am also disabled through the Veteran's Administration with my hearing and relies on captioning.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Callis  
rccallis@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Vic Cantorna, 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.

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,

Vic Cantorna  
vic.cantorna@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Frank Caramanica and I am Deaf. I live in Talbot 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.

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

Sincerely,

Frank Caramanica  
arkotek71@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Angela Carder and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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 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,

Angela Carder  
angiecrdr81@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Yonnetta Carter 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.

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

Sincerely,

Yonnetta Carter  
Yonnettacarter04@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shaji Chacko, 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,

Shaji Chacko  
scdeaf@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Zakiya Chambers 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.

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

Sincerely,

Zakiya Chambers  
kiya3\_99@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jasper Chandler 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 same as other people who go to the movie.

I grew up with captions on as the default so having the ability to go see movies in theaters with them on is amazing. I went to an open captioned showing of Across the Spiderverse last year and the captions made sure I didn't miss any of Hobie's jokes, even with his thick accent. I'd go to more movies in theaters if there were more options for open captioned showings.

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

Sincerely,

Jasper Chandler  
jasperchandler01@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tamika Chandler, and I am Hard of 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.

Inclusion is so important. Without an open caption I literally am not able to enjoy or follow along with a movie. For over 20 years, I always had to wait for movies to either be released on DVD or to watch it on a cable network. This meant I would miss out on enjoying the movie when it first came out. I grew to dislike movie theaters because of the lack of open caption options. It wasn't until I moved to a town where they had open caption movies that I started to actually enjoy going to the movie theaters. The open captions help so many people to enjoy movies. The devices that display closed captions are prone to technical difficulties and they would always make my movie experience worse than if I just went to see it without captions. But open captions help me, and many others, to enjoy movies.

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

Sincerely,

Tamiak Chandler  
mika.chandler3@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Caryn Chavarria, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Caryn Chavarria  
caryn.chavarria@mcpsmd.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jessica Chavis 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 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Chavis  
Jesschavis@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ashley Chiang, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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.

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.

Growing up as a child of a Deaf adult, I routinely was denied the opportunity to share new movies and films with my parents until it finally came out on VHS and we could watch it together at home with closed captions. This meant a huge lag in the time my friends were talking about new things and when we could participate. It denied my parents the ability to socialize and connect more with my friends' parents and others. For something as simple as open captioning, which wouldn't have only benefited him but many others in my community. And now when my children want to include their grandparent in an outing that includes a movie or film we have to do immense research to try and find a film within reasonable driving distance that fits in everyone's schedule and has closed captioning. We need the opportunity to see movies with open captions, which in turn supports our local businesses and the industry as a whole.

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

Sincerely,

Ashley Chiang  
chiang.ashley.p@gmail.com



# 1-50.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB426 - 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 hearing person, open captioning helps me not miss any of the dialogue in a movie. At home I perpetually leave my closed captions on because of this. Open captioning is universal design, and helps everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah  
shelby.abdilah@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Fatimah Abdul-Rahim, 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.

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 people deserve equal access to movies through open captioning, just like hearing people have with audio. Imagine the frustration of not being able to fully experience a movie because of lack of accessibility. Let's make sure open captions are available for all!

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

Sincerely,

Fatimah Abdul-Rahim  
fatimah215@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ido Achrak 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,

Ido Achrak  
Aido842@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alexandra Adams, and I am Hearing. 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.

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 always a useful tool. It's unobtrusive and often beneficial. Even as a hearing person, I find them helpful for understanding dialogue or providing clarity.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Adams  
alexandrgraceadams@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tammy Adams, and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico 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 526.

Sincerely,

Tammy Adams  
mrstadams@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Leah Adekunle-Raji and I am Hearing and a person with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorders. 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,

Leah Adekunle-Raji  
leah.raji@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michelle Ailstock, 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,

Michelle Ailstock  
michellegailstock@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Peace Ajao, 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,

Peace Ajao  
peaceajao15@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennifer Ajifowoke, 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,

Jennifer Ajifowoke  
chibuezejennifer@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Olalekan Ajifowoke, 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.

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,

Olalekan Ajifowoke  
ajifowokesamson@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Taye Akinola 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.

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 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,

Taye Akinola  
taye.akinola@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nkiruka Akunwafor, 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.

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 lifelong Maryland resident, it has been hard for me to watch movies. Now with a few movie theaters offering open captions, I am thrilled but always limited and not the movies I desire to watch. I would love to have more options to choose which theater and movies I want to watch like other people do.

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

Sincerely,

Nkiruka Akunwafor  
msnkikia@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Courtney Alcott and I am Hard of 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 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 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,

Courtney Alcott  
courtneyalcott@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Andy Aldrin 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Andy Aldrin  
andyaldrin10@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shawna Alexander and I am a person learning English as a second language. 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Shawna Alexander  
shawna\_alexander@yahoo.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Patti Alford, 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Patti Alford  
pealford122@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mansour Ali and I am Hearing, a person learning English as a second language. 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.

Open captions in movies are crucial for ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all. By incorporating open captions directly into the film, everyone can enjoy and understand the dialogue, sound effects, and music, fostering a more inclusive cinematic experience. This not only enhances accessibility but also promotes a more diverse and welcoming environment within the entertainment industry.

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

Sincerely,

Mansour Ali  
mansour\_ali@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tricia Alleyne, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Tricia Alleyne  
mstricalleyne19@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Frank Allnutt, 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.

Although I am a resident of the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, I attend movies in Maryland all the time in the Hagerstown area. Having more open captioned movies will allow me to continue to spend money supporting local businesses and for me to enjoy an evening out with my family watching movies.

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

Sincerely,

Frank Allnutt  
fsallnutt@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alicia Altamirano Bautista 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 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,

Alicia Altamirano Bautista  
troubleama@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Manuel Alvarez, and I am Hearing. 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.

In this advance era where the distribution communications it is not just audio, but in many ways such as verbal and non-verbal, written, visual, we need to have a law to deliver to the deaf community with the same rights of a hearing person to delightfully enjoy the any cinemas, we need the same enjoyment to be extended to us the deaf community to mandate all cinema to provide Open Caption systems and tools. It is frustrating to go to a cinema that does not offer Open Caption Services.

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

Sincerely,

Manuel Alvarez  
manuelrealestate@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Manuel Alvarez, and I am Hearing. 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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In this advance era where the distribution communications it is not just audio, but in many ways such as verbal and non-verbal, written, visual, we need to have a law to deliver to the deaf community with the same rights of a hearing person to delightfully enjoy the any cinemas, we need the same enjoyment to be extended to us the deaf community to mandate all cinema to provide Open Caption systems and tools. It is frustrating to go to a cinema that does not offer Open Caption Services.

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

Sincerely,

Manuel Alvarez  
manuelrealestate@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amanda Amati 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,

Amanda Amati  
Amatiamanda@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Donalda Ammons, 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.

This is essential to the literacy of ALL people!

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

Sincerely,

Donalda Ammons  
donalda.ammons@gallaudet.edu

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Paula Jean Ammons, 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,

Paula Jean Ammons  
pjammons@icloud.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nancy Anderson, and I am Hard of 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 typically drive 2 hrs from Virginia to see an open captioned movie in Maryland. I need open captioning movies to enjoy with my deaf husband.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Anderson  
lakefredlady60@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Timothy Anderson, 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 have recently enjoyed viewing films that are open captioned because finally I am able to follow English and music words in Maryland after 50 years not comprehending dialogue on movies in theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Timothy Anderson  
lakefredtim038@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 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,

Stella Antonio  
scorpiostar1109@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Maribel Aponte-Ortiz, 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,

Maribel Aponte-Ortiz  
nycbutterfly68@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 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,

Larisa Aranbayeva  
larisa.aran@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sue-Ann Arboine, and I have 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.

When I watch movies, I sometimes have a hard time understanding what someone who is off camera might say, but open captioning helps to capture everything in real time.

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

Sincerely,

Sue-Ann Arboine  
s.arboine809@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ana Argueta, 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.

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,

Ana Argueta  
anabelle1495@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gregory Arment and I am Hard of 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.

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Most importantly, 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,

Gregory Arment  
Gearment19@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tiffany Arnett, 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,

Tiffany Arnett  
tiffyarnett2010@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 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.

Open captions in movies play a pivotal role in making cinematic experiences accessible. Unlike closed captions, which can be turned on or off, open captions are permanently displayed, ensuring that individuals can effortlessly follow dialogue and audio elements. This not only enhances their enjoyment of films but also reflects a commitment to inclusivity within the entertainment industry, fostering a more diverse and welcoming cinematic landscape for all audiences.

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

Sincerely,

Shivani Arya  
arya\_shivani@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Averett, 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,

Karen Averett  
klsheffer@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jillian Azrelyant 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,

Jillian Azrelyant  
Theazrelyants@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Larissa Baer, 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,

Larissa Baer  
larissaecbaer@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 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,

Carol Baker  
canport88@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gregory Baker and I am Hard of Hearing. 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,

Gregory Baker  
tinkinbalto@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Donna Ballmer 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,

Donna Ballmer  
[Dlballmer@gmail.com](mailto:Dlballmer@gmail.com)

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is James Ballmer 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,

James Ballmer  
[Jkballmer@gmail.com](mailto:Jkballmer@gmail.com)

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ally Balsley and I am Deaf, a person learning English as a second language. 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.

My first open caption movie was at 12 years old watching *Titanic*. I went to every open captioning movies that weekend. And no movie was open captioned after that for another few years. That is the life I grew up into, not having accessible movies. I do not want my three deaf children to also miss out on movie theater experiences just because there are limited showings. We hope Maryland will show the country what accessibility should be like. Embrace equality !

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

Sincerely,

Ally Balsley  
ladybalsley@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee::

My name is Nat Balsley, 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,

Nat Balsley  
bladezone@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joi Bannister, 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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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 hearing person, open captioning is beneficial to myself. I think Open Captions should be accessible for all Marylanders.

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

Sincerely,

Joi Bannister  
joi.bannister@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alex Bardsley 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,

Alex Bardsley  
alex.bardsley@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lillian Barieur, and I am Hearing, with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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,

Lillian Barieur  
varieur@cua.edu



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sonia Barlongo, 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.

There is a large deaf community in Maryland and we demand equal access to the open captioning in all movie theaters regardless where we live. We do see that hearing people enjoy watching any movies with audio on, then why can't we, deaf people enjoy the movies with open captioning, also?

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

Sincerely,

Sonia Barlongo  
Sonia.Barlongo@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Malaki Barnes, 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,

Malaki Barnes  
malaki-barnes@pgcps.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee

My name is Tamara Barnes, 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,

Tamara Barnes  
teebarnes83@gmail.com

# 151-200.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is David Chidlow, 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.

It helps me to understand the movie with open captions and enjoy time with both hearing and deaf people in movie theaters. It helps the movie business in good terms.

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

Sincerely,

David Chidlow  
chidcabe@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nora Chidlow, 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,

Nora Chidlow  
chidlownlm@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Bradley Christlieb and I am Deaf. 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, 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,

Bradley Christlieb  
Bradleychristlieb@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Hannah Churn 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.

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've heard from members of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community that the glasses movie theaters provide are a hit-and-miss. It seems like such a simple solution to just allow a set amount of showing with captions to be consistently inclusive for all.

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

Sincerely,

Hannah Churn  
hebenbow@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Cynthia Cieslik, 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.

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.

These glasses enable you to read the captions in a display at the bottom of the glasses. You wear the box around your neck. Yes, these are incredibly uncomfortable, but beyond that, they don't work very well. My sister and her husband needed to try three different devices before finding one that worked. I know that one of the complaints that theater owners put forward is that people who don't need captions don't want to attend a movie with open captions. As a person who almost always has captions on my TV. I doubt this. If you don't need captions, they are easy to ignore, and if your hearing loss is minor, they are a helpful tool..

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

Sincerely,

Cynthia Cieslik  
cccieslik@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Desiree Cipriano 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.

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,

Desiree Cipriano  
dcipriano127@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennifer Clark and I am Deaf. 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.

Open captioning Movies is critical for the Deaf community. We are just like other hearing moviegoers. The glasses with captions are not reliable or comfortable. A captioned stand in cup holder is the worst.. it's either not reliable to stay in one place or the battery died in the middle of the movie or there are wrong captions (for different movies) etc. I have asked all of my hearing peers if OC is a distraction.. they said no and the majority of them prefer subtitles.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clark  
buzzmamaof3@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Melissa Clark 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.

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,

Melissa Clark  
Miska8660@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sarah Clark, 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.

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 movies with a hard-of-hearing friend and most of the time the assistive devices don't work. Also, my hearing is good but sometimes I miss dialogue because of loud background music, heavy accents, or general garbling. Open Captioning is the best answer to these problems.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Clark  
rupertandsarah@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sharon Clark 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.

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,

Sharon Clark  
sharon.lynn65@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Britney Clause 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.

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.

While I do not have any hearing impairments, accessibility for all is something I support and fight for quite frequently. The ability to have captions allows everyone to enjoy a film or TV show to its fullest extent. Regardless of ability to hear, a majority of people mishear lines from movies, or completely miss parts of dialog because the audio is either too loud, low, or the actor's delivery is inconsistent. A common complaint of movie theaters is that it's just too easy to miss key details because of the audio, so with this improvement, could there also be an improvement in movie theater attendance? Open captions will undoubtedly impact the moviegoer experience in a positive and uplifting way.

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

Sincerely,

Britney Clause  
bclause18@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alix Clise and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Alix Clise  
alixclise@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marissa Clopper 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.

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

Sincerely,

Marissa Clopper  
Marissa.clopper@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rekha Coe, 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,

Rekah Coe  
lucy\_shelf@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jay Cohen, and I am Hard of 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 am a lifelong lover of movies. Now in my senior years, I no longer can fully enjoy movies without captioning. The available devices and systems leave too much to be desired. These are often uncomfortable or awkward to use. The best option is Open Captioning.

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

Sincerely,

Jay Cohen  
mousecall1@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joan Cohen, 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.

My husband and I seek out open captioned movies and theater. My husband has a hearing loss and benefits greatly from the captioning. I also benefit as I look at the captioning when I miss dialogue. Open captioning is much more comfortable than using the equipment that some movie theaters offer, which is unreliable or unavailable.

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

Sincerely,

Joan Cohen  
joanlee\_60@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

Processing auditory information is my job as a sign language interpreter but when I want to go to the movies with my family and friends, watching movies with open captions has become a necessity for me and my family/friends. With the limited options in movie theaters I'm not able to go to the movies with my deaf/hard of hearing friends. Even if I attempt to go with just my family, it becomes exhausting having to process the information I hear and see because I realize the background noise takes over a lot of dialogue and I miss important information pertaining to the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Kenya Colbert  
kenyacolbert3@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Khera Colbert, 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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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 hearing person that uses open captioning to enjoy TV and Movies. I cannot enjoy going to the theater unless there are open captions. There is a lot of information that is missed with background noise, movie scores, and mumbling.

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

Sincerely,

Khera Colbert  
khera.colbert@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ann Cole, 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.

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 device has caused me a headache and difficulty reading the small words.

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

Sincerely,

Ann Cole  
anncole47@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Samuel Cole, 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.

One time I went to the movies and I was watching Black Adam. I couldn't quite catch everything the characters were saying. I kept asking my dad what the characters were saying. Open Captioning would be helpful!.

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

Sincerely,

Samuel Cole  
samuel-cole@pgcps.org



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Steven Cole, 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.

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 having open captions because of headaches when I used glass for closed captions and was not comfortable reading.

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

Sincerely,

Steven Cole  
smcole52@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Erin Coleman, and I am Hard of 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,

Erin Coleman  
erincoleman105@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Betty Colonomos, 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.

I always watch television with captions. I need that support when the audio is unclear. I also want to go to the movies with my Deaf friends but I cannot because they are not accessible. Hearing people would benefit from seeing written English too.

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

Sincerely,

Betty Colonomos  
visitbmc@verizon.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marie Combs, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder.

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,

Marie Combs  
tajhy154@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Megan Conaghan 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,

Megan Conaghan  
mjconaghan8@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Casandra Conde and I am Deaf. 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, 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,

Casandra Conde  
Ganikocas@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tara Congdon, 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.

My husband, who is also Deaf, and I have given up on going to movies because rear-window captioning and the glasses are so unreliable they've made every single experience unpleasant and a waste of our time. We have had to go to theaters twice or three times to just be able to see one movie. We don't bother unless we see that it's open-captioned, then we can have confidence we won't miss the first 20 minutes due to technological difficulties and then decide to take vouchers and come back another time because of having missed the first 20 minutes. I have a whole stack of vouchers at this point that I won't use unless it's on an OC movie.

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

Sincerely,

Tara Congdon  
tschupner@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ann Conroy 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.

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,

Ann Conroy  
aconro@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gina Conyers 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.

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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 92.

Sincerely,

Gina Conyers  
Gbc7375@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sheryl Cooper, 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.

My husband is hard of hearing and has a lot of trouble hearing in movie theaters. At home, we always watch with captions, and we rarely go to theaters. If theaters had captioning, we would go back!

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

Sincerely,

Sheryl Cooper  
fingerworks1@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Noelle Corrado, 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.

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,

Noelle Corrado  
ncorrado1226@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kathy Cortopassi, 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.

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 provide closed captioning services. I worked with people with hearing loss for 30 years. I heard their stories. Open Captioned movies also helps those for whom English is not their primary language. It helps those with ADHD or autism focus on the spoken word. It distracts them to help calm themselves. Open Captioning - captioning itself in all settings - serves many purposes.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Cortopassi  
kathycortopassi@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ruth Cote, 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.

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.

Even with a cochlear hearing aid/processor, I find it difficult to understand all the words in a movie at the movie theater. I use captioning on my TV all the time and it is more enjoyable rather than struggling to understand the words. My husband, who is hearing, appreciates the captioning too.

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

Sincerely,

Ruth Cote  
racote43@comcast.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ashley Cottom, and I am Hard of Hearing. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Ashley Cottom  
ashley.cottom@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Donald Craig, 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.

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,

Donald Craig  
donsail68@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kim Craig, 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,

Kim Craig  
kimmariee@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Johnthan Croney, 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.

When I watch movies without open captions, I have to use the devices and I miss the action on the screen. It is not easy to toggle back-and-forth between the captioning and the movie screen. Using the devices they provide is a pain because you have to go to customer service to sign them out and then you have to sign them back in. I support the bill to add open caption to ALL movies more than one, at least a few times a week per movie.

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

Sincerely,

Johnathan Croney  
jjcroney@icloud.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Theresa Croney and I am Hearing. 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 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.

My husband is Deaf, I am hearing and a sign language interpreter. One of our favorite things to do is go to the movies. I would interpret for him, but as you can imagine, sometimes that was an overwhelming task doing that on my own for 2 to 3 hours. After the theaters implemented captioning machines, we were so excited. But that excitement quickly waned when we realized that they were often broken, not programmed correctly, the battery would sometimes die mid-movie, and while the screen you had to look through was miniature, the device itself was bulky heavy metal so it was uncomfortable to carry, especially when carrying drinks & popcorn. Not to mention the fact that we would get stares and looks from people. 9 times out of 10, we found ourselves asking for a refund. This goes against the litmus test for equal access. Theaters started offering a few open-caption movies, and we were hooked. My husband can finally watch a movie hands-free, and not have to rely on me to interpret or look through a miniature device. Now the only thing that needs to improve is the amount of access.

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

Sincerely,

Theresa Croney  
Croney143@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tade Cross, 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.

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've had trouble getting the armrest rear window devices and the glasses to work. I'd like to be able to stop complaining to the management and being given free passes to future movies. I'd like to go to the movies - get a ticket and go straight to a seat and watch without a hassle.

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

Sincerely,

Tade Cross  
tadecross@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amy Crumrine, 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.

When my husband and I had glasses often the battery would die and I would have to leave the movie to discuss with the manager to get new ones. By the time I got back to the movie, I missed a good chunk of what happened. It's always disappointing when this happens.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Crumrine  
amycrumrine72@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Roy Crumrine, 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.

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.

For a long time, many families with at least one deaf member in the family do not want to attend movies without open caption films because of boredom during 2 hours to 3 hour long movies. I remember during my childhood years during the 80's when StarWars, ET, Karate Kid, etc were playing at the movie theater and I would ask my parents to tell me what was going on. My parents will tell me the main parts during the movie and I realize that I missed too much of the movie. I stopped going to the movies because of the lack of captions. I enjoyed watching captioned movies when renting VHS tapes from Erol's (Blockbusters or similar).

If you add open captions to the film, then everyone in the family will receive the exact same movie scenes experience and joy as everyone else. In addition, a deaf member in the family can discuss all of the movie's scenes with a hearing member of the family equally.

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

Sincerely,

Roy Crumrine  
roycrumrine72@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Hannahlyn Cudal, 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.

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,

Hannahlyn Cudal  
hannahlyn-cudal@pgcps.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kyla Cunningham and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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.

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,

Kyla Cunningham  
kyla.cunningham.kc@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joe Dalaker and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 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.

This bill is an important step toward making movie theaters in Maryland truly inclusive of the communities who need captioning--the physically deaf and the Deaf Community, the hard-of-hearing, and persons with other differences around language and hearing. Currently, while access may technically be available in many movie theaters, the accommodations are not consistent. The bill would make the accommodations more consistent.

The following experiences at movie theaters of one of Cheverly's residents, who is deaf, illustrates the problems that the bill will help to rectify:

Captioning equipment not being maintained. The resident has attended movies that were advertised as being closed-captioned, at movie theaters that provided captioning equipment. On multiple occasions, at different theaters, she had borrowed the captioning equipment only to discover it was not properly maintained (e.g., battery not charged) and as a result would not provide captions for the movie. Not every theater employee necessarily knows how to maintain the equipment, and those who do (typically a manager) are not always immediately available to address problems like this.

Pursuant to this problem, I emphasize that poorly-maintained captioning equipment does not provide equal access. Because movie trailers and advertisements shown before the start of the main feature frequently are not captioned, the Cheverly resident has on multiple occasions and at multiple theaters only discovered the equipment malfunction after the movie started. Getting the problem fixed required her to go back to the theater's service desk and ask for assistance from a staff member who was not immediately available, and therefore she missed the plot expositions



of the films she attended. Missing that information only reinforced the usual non inclusive dynamics she experiences typically--having to piece information together, with bits of information missing, because communication in the wider community assumes all parties are hearing.

Rarity of open-captioned movie viewings. Attending the movies is a social activity. The movie theater is a place where friends go to connect and where couples go on dates. When closed-captioning equipment malfunctions, it takes away from the shared experience of watching the movie -- particularly when, as is often the case, only one person in a party attending the movie needs the captioning. Open captioning would put everyone on an even footing, and not mark those who need the captioning as "other." Currently, open-captioned movies are rare, both geographically (only some theaters have open captioning) and in terms of content (usually only non-English-language films have subtitles).

Given her repeated experiences with malfunctioning captioning equipment, the Cheverly resident has attempted to go to the movies with friends and loved ones for open captioned viewings. To do so she either had to go to Columbia Maryland (a 40-minute drive each way from Cheverly) for specific viewings, or see a foreign-language film closer by (which provided English subtitles for spoken dialogue). Therefore, her experiences of going to the movies on a date or with a group of friends usually required her to rely on closed-captioning equipment, as opposed to an unencumbered viewing of an open-captioned film.

I want to point out that when hearing people want to see a film in a language other than English, they usually expect there to be subtitles. Providing open captioning for each film multiple times a week, at popular movie-viewing times, shows respect for those who need captioning for English-language films; failing to do so does not.

For these reasons above, I urge you to pass the act. It would reduce needless frustration and send a message that everyone matters, regardless of ability.

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

Sincerely,

Joe Dalaker

Joseph.Dalaker@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Renee Damskey, 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.

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,

Renee Damskey  
pinkpointer@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rikki Daniels 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.

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,

Rikki Daniels  
rellingsworth@msn.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Carmen Danley and I am a person with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder.

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 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,

Carmen Danley  
Danley.carmen@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amy Dauphin, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Queen Anne'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.

It would be a dream to go to the movie theaters at normal natural times to hang with my two hearing children (both ages 11 and 14) and watch new upcoming movies. Oftentimes, they begged to see newly released movies, and they end up going with their hearing father on their own.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Dauphin  
amydauphin@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Daniel Davidson, 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,

Daniel Davidson  
danyld21@gmail.com

# 51-100.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sophia Barr, 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.

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,

Sophia Barr  
barrs0776@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Anthony Barraza, 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.

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 family members who are Deaf, and we are unable to go to a movie together as a family to watch open captioned movies. This bill would bring our family together so that we all would have access as we should in this day, and age.

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

Sincerely,

Anthony Barraza  
me@tonybarraza.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brian Barron, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Barron  
bjbarron13@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sarah Bathon 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Bathon  
sarahbathon@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Beaumont 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.

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.

My daughter is Deaf and I would love the opportunity to go to movies in the theater with her. It would be helpful if they weren't only shown in the middle of the week during school hours or the last show of the evening.

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Beaumont  
Ghgbeaumont@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee::

My name is Susan Beaver and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico 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,

Susan Beaver  
susanbeaver155@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Julia E. Becker, 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.

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.

When I want to watch a great movie with open captioning, I have to travel to Washington, DC or Fredrick, MD. Movie closer to my home is my wish.

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

Sincerely,

Julia E. Becker  
jebecker54@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Robert Becker, and I am Deaf. I live in Wicomico 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,

Robert Becker  
buckingham@dila.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is JB Begue, and I am Deaf. 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.

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 prefer to have open captions on the movie screen so I can enjoy the “theater” vibe with other people. If there is no open caption, then I have no choice but carry the special device and sit in the cup holder which is often problematic.

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

Sincerely,

JB Begue  
jsbeon7@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Maureen Behrens, 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,

Maureen Behrens  
aslnature64@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Suzi Behun, 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.

Open captioning is the best access for everyone, especially young kids to read open captioning and help young kids to improve their language/English. Open captioning is easy to read on the movie than other devices

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

Sincerely,

Suzi Behun  
suzi@behun.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nan Belice and I am Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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.

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,

Nan Belice  
mysaviorjesus@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Bell 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,

Jeffrey Bell  
jefmax57@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennifer Bellemore 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,

Jennifer Bellemore  
jennifer.bellemore@gmail.com

February 8, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Paula Belletiere, 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,

Paula Belletiere  
pbelletiere@cruiseplanners.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Anthony Benavente Sanchez, 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 HB426.

Sincerely,

Anthony Benavente Sanchez  
a-benaventesanchez@pgcps.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Benevides, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. 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.

Open-captioning not only supports people who are deaf or hard of hearing, but also people for whom English is not a primary language, for those with processing disorders, and for those of us who simply prefer to read the dialogue so as not to miss anything! The Howard County Autism Society brought "sensory friendly movies" to AMC Theaters more than a decade ago--this made the theaters accessible to many people for whom the movie theater was overstimulating. Similarly, this legislation supports a basic need--reading words for those who need written words rather than spoken words. Please vote in favor of this budget-neutral legislation. Movie producers already add the open-captions. Movie theaters should be required to provide them to customers in order to level the playing field and make the movies one more place that is equitable and accessible.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Benevides  
elizabethbenevides1@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Adrienne Benjamin 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 Bhandaris. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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,

Adrienne Benjamin  
[Adrienne.joy25@gmail.com](mailto:Adrienne.joy25@gmail.com)

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Bennett, 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,

Karen Bennett  
bennett1973@atlanticbb.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Holly Bentz, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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.

Captions contribute to creating a more inclusive & accessible environment for a wide range of people.

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

Sincerely,

Holly Bentz  
chinadoll009@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tiasha Bera 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.

I am tired of the whole shenanigans of having odd times for open caption movies. I want to see the movies with my husband during a date night. But of course it is not available so this needs to CHANGE.

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

Sincerely,

Tiasha Bera  
deafrulers@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Daniel Berke 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.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Berke  
Dazb1988@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jamie Berke, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jamie Berke  
rangerfan\_us@yahoo.com

February 8, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jason Bermudez, 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.

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 92.

Sincerely,

Jason Bermudez  
jason-bermudez@pgcps.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Angelika Berry and I am Deaf. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Angelika Berry  
A.l.berry05@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is John Berry, and I am Hard of Hearing. 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.

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,

John Berry  
jpberryjr@gmail.com

February 8, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shawn Berry, 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.

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.

More open caption movies are needed for me and my other hard of hearing friends living here in Leisure World in Montgomery County, Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Shawn Berry  
shawn.yfu.mom@gmail.com

February 8, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Wilma Berry, 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.

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 92.

Sincerely,

Wilma Berry  
billieberry59@outlook.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Dori Betjemann 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.

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.

We enjoy going to movies with our Deaf family members and Deaf friends. It is so much more enjoyable if the movie is open-captioned. The closed-captioned devices where the captions are displayed on a device attached to the seat of each user are more difficult to calibrate and read. These devices are often not working and theater employees do not know how to fix them so almost always the first 30 minutes of a movie are spent, with someone running back and forth to the device station to get the equipment functioning. Open captions avoid all of these issues and are also welcomed by many hearing people, especially older or those who are learning English as a second language.

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

Sincerely,

Dori Betjemann  
Dbetjemann@peak.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brenda Bianchi, 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,

Brenda Bianchi  
chunkywheeler@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is James Biesel, 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.

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

Sincerely,

James Biesel  
jamesbiesel@gmail.com

February 8, 2024

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cheryl Birnbaum, and I am Deaf. 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 SB 92.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Birnbaum  
clhbrivolis@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alice Bishop, and I am a person learning English as a second language. 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.

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,

Alice Bishop  
shuiqiuwen@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Daniel Bitzel, 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,

Daniel Bitzel  
daniel.p.bitzel@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Emma Bixler, and I am 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.

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 a hearing Dyslexic Marylander who connected with the Deaf community in high school and subsequently found the access that watching tv, movies or shows with captions provides. I now personally watch all my media using captions whether it's on social media, YouTube or a TV app. The way my brain processes spoken language makes it difficult to fully hear or absorb what is being said on the screen. Without captions I'm always turning to the person next me asking what I missed which is not an enjoyable experience for anyone and therefore I don't go to the movie theaters. Providing captions more consistently at movie theaters would allow me and my communities to partake in art and entertainment at local businesses supporting the greater Maryland economy and better connecting us with our neighbors and society by accessing a shared experience.

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

Sincerely,

Emma Bixler  
ejbixler@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Daniella Blake-Aranbayeva 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.

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.

As a Child of Deaf Adults (CODA), witnessing the lack of access for my parents and the general Deaf and Hard of Hearing community has been disheartening. Walking into a movie theater knowing that it may take 30 minutes to request a captioning device, waiting for it to be found buried in a box demonstrates the lack of preparedness. At times, I have found that even theater employees are unaware of how the devices operate or do not realize that they need to be charged/batteries replaced to work. This lack of accessibility has been an ongoing concern. It has deterred my family, among others, from having family nights at the movie theater and contributing to the economy in this way. When we do choose to attend a movie theater, it takes a while to obtain a captioning device. I have found myself interpreting the movie instead of watching it as a paying attendee because I do not want my parents to feel left out or their needs less than. The MD Open Captioning Movies Bill will reverse these sentiments and alleviate the burden placed on the Deaf community, CODAs, and theater employees.

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

Sincerely,

Daniella Blake-Aranbayeva  
daniella.blakearanbayeva@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sean Blake 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 Senator Benjamin 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.

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.

It is frustrating to use outdated devices such as close-captioned eyeglasses and clamp-mount close-captioned devices. These are uncomfortable to wear and distracting to the viewers when it is being set up in the theater.

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

Sincerely,

Sean Blake  
mdsblake@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Blanchard, 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.

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.

This will benefit to all people of all ages.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Blanchard  
seadog2847@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Blanco, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Blanco  
jblanco519@gmail.com

February 8, 2024

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marie Blanco, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Marie Blanco  
marie.rose.harrison@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jillian Bleggi, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Jillian Bleggi  
jillian.bleggi@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jason Bloom, and I am Deaf. I live in Queen Anne'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,

Jason Bloom  
jbloom24@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Theresa Blume, and I am Hearing, 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.

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 would be most appreciated for those who cannot hear or hear well to understand what they are seeing on the screen they are watching. This would enable the watcher to fully comprehend the scope of the movie or show.

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

Sincerely,

Theresa Blume  
blume\_theresa@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Steve Blumstein, 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.

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,

Steve Blumstein  
sdblumstein@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lauren Blundin 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.

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,

Lauren Blundin  
Laurenblundin@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters 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 **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,

Beverly Boateng  
akwaaba58@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Patrick Bolingbroke, and I am Deaf. I live in Wicomico 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,

Patrick Bolingbroke  
buckingham@dila.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nicole Booz 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.

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 son was born with unilateral hearing loss that will affect him his entire life. Movie open captions will make films so much more accessible to people with hearing loss. Storytellers and movie theaters are missing out on huge audiences (and money) by not making this small accommodation and change. As I have gotten older, I also prefer captions on as it is so easy to miss parts of the story being told. Thank you for reading and I hope this bill passes.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole Booz  
enicolebooz@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amy Bopp, and I am Deaf. 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.

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,

Amy Bopp  
bopp56@gmail.com



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is George Bourozikas, and I am Hearing. 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.

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,

George Bourozikas  
george@bourozikas.net

# **Green American HB 426 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV



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February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Green America in support of **HB 426- Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. The Bill would require each movie theater to add onscreen captions on all movies at least two (2) times per week, in an effort to make moviegoing more accessible.

Green America is a national nonprofit organization with 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, thousands of whom live in Maryland and the National Capital region. We work to promote a green economy that works for all people and the planet.

Many of our members would benefit from onscreen captioning of movies. We have members and family members of our members who are deaf, who are hard of hearing, who are neurodivergent, learning to read, learning English, and/or elderly. These are just some of the people who would benefit from onscreen captioning. Many hearing people also appreciate captions so they don't miss dialogue in movies.

Current mandated technologies, including glasses or "cup holder" technologies are often difficult to use and provide a sub-optimal viewing experience for users, since they must attempt to view the movie and captioning through these devices at the same time. They may also be uncomfortable with disclosing their disability to the theater.

Showing onscreen captioned movies twice per week would allow all moviegoers the opportunity to better understand the dialogue of the movie they are watching. Millions of people use onscreen captioning when watching television at home for this reason.

We are therefore supportive of HB 426 and hope that the Bill moves forward as it would allow more people to fully experience and enjoy movies in Maryland – benefiting residents, visitors, and movie theaters.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director

# HCAD HB 426 Open Captioning .pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Room 231  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 426 - Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD), I respectfully ask that you pass House Bill (HB) #426 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 made 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,

***Elke Pieters***

Elke Pieters  
HCAD President

# **HLAA Prince George\_s County SB 92 HB 426 Support.p**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV



January 30, 2024

Re: SB 92 and HB 426 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses –  
Captioning

Recommendation: Position letter from Prince George's County Chapter, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) to support SB 92 and HB 426.

Greetings,

The Prince George's County Chapter – Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) follows legislation regarding programs and services for people with disabilities, identifies barriers to programs and services available to people with disabilities, and recommends ways to overcome those barriers.

The members of the HLAA Prince George's County Chapter - strongly urge you to support HB 426 and SB 92 – Open Captioning at Movie Theatres, which Senator Brook and Delegate Bhandari sponsor.

Sincerely,

S/ Leslie M. Greenberg  
Les Greenberg, Chair  
HLAA – Prince George's County Chapter



# **Jacob Leffler's Oral Testimony-2.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

Thank you Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, 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.

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 unclear screens, captioning is a lifesaver in catching up with the dialogue.

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.

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!

# **PCRID HB 426 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

January 29, 2024

Shannon Morrison  
President  
Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID)  
Maryland

January 29, 2024

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Esteemed Members of the Maryland House of Delegates,

I trust this letter finds you well. My name is Shannon Morrison, and I am honored to serve as the President of the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID). I am writing to express our unwavering support for the Open Captioning Movie bill that is set to be reintroduced during the 2024 Maryland legislative session.

PCRID, as a local affiliate chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of the sign language interpreting profession in Maryland and Washington, D.C. One of our primary goals is to champion the quality, professionalism, and integrity of sign language interpreting, and we recognize the vital role that accessibility plays in achieving these objectives.

We wish to commend the Open Captioning Movies Committee (OCMC) for their relentless efforts in advocating for open captioned options in movie theaters. We firmly believe that the Open Captioning Movie bill aligns with our commitment to equal access for all, specifically benefiting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities. Furthermore, we appreciate the bill's potential to extend its positive impact to individuals with neurodiverse conditions and those who are English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

PCRID wholeheartedly endorses the Open Captioning Movie bill and stands in solidarity with OCMC in urging the Maryland House of Delegates to support its passage during the upcoming legislative session. We believe that implementing open captions will not only enhance the cinematic experience for a diverse audience but also contribute significantly to creating a more inclusive society.

As an organization deeply committed to supporting initiatives that align with our mission, PCRID welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with OCMC in any capacity that may contribute to the success of the Open Captioning Movie bill. Whether it involves providing valuable feedback, participating in discussions, or exploring potential volunteering opportunities, please consider PCRID as a dedicated partner in advancing this crucial accessibility initiative.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and for considering the impact that the Open Captioning Movie bill can have on improving accessibility and inclusion for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Shannon Morrison  
PCRID President

# **PGCAD HB 426 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

**Prince George's County Association of the Deaf**



February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Prince George's County Association of the Deaf regarding **HB 426-Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. 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, one during the weekday and one on the weekend, in an effort to make moviegoing more accessible. Currently, the rule does not require movie theaters to add captions.

The PGCAD Board strongly feels that the bill would benefit our citizens in Prince George's County 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 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 HB 426.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis  
President  
pgcadeaf2020@gmail.com



**SCI Letter of Support (SB92&HB426).pdf**

Uploaded by: Kelby Brick

Position: FAV

**HB264 PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION - MOTION PICTURE HOUSES - CAPTIONING**  
**SB92 PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION - MOTION PICTURE HOUSES – CAPTIONING**

**TESTIMONY OF  
KELBY BRICK, ESQ., CDI  
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER  
SERVICE COORDINATION, INC.**

**HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE  
Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
February 6, 2024**

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE  
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
February 8, 2024**

Greetings Chair and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Kelby Brick. I am Chief Strategy Officer of Service Coordination, Inc. (SCI).

SCI is a leading non-profit organization providing award-winning case management services and advocacy for more than 15,000 individuals with disabilities, medically complex needs, older adults, and others across Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia. SCI's mission is to help people understand their choices and create pathways to community resources that respect their dignity and rights. The organization also provides companion care and aging life care management through Montcordia.

The current bills under consideration would require movie theaters to offer open captioned movies on a limited basis. This is an important step toward achieving the principles of accessibility and inclusivity, making the cinematic experience accessible to a broader audience.

By mandating captioning in movie theaters, this legislation would contribute to breaking down barriers and fostering a more inclusive society. It acknowledges the diverse needs of our state.

Best of all, this commonsense bill costs both the state and movie houses absolutely nothing! How many times can you make the claim that you passed a civil rights legislation that costs absolutely nothing for anybody and yet is transformational? This is the bill.

I think there is nothing more powerful than hearing directly from constituents. The next page has a list of quotes from constituents across the state. Those quotes express the frustration, anguish and struggles of those individuals who are excluded from movie houses. As a Deaf person, I obviously share and identify with their sentiments.

Please support and pass this bill this year to protect consumers while advancing their civil rights.

Thank you.

## QUOTES FROM CONSTITUENTS

“Everyone deserves to go to the movies and enjoy the cinematic experience. Nobody should be dealing with a broken cupholder device with a crazy bendy pole. If you already wear glasses, then you have to put on those big bulky glasses on top of them in order to see the closed captions? Uncomfortable, I tell ya! Or if the CC device doesn’t work and you miss some of the movie because you have to go to the lobby to get a new one?” *Nyle DiMarco, Maryland School for the Deaf graduate, winner of America's Next Top Model, and winner of Dancing with the Stars.*

“Because of my hearing loss due to age, I miss a lot of information. OC helps me enjoy the movie like others do.” *JoAnn, Baltimore City*

“As a neurodivergent person, it is difficult to focus on or process so many noisy background sounds and music. Seeing OCs make my theatre experience far more fulfilling and enjoyable.” *Gabi, Baltimore County*

“Hearing companions see my frustrations with the CC devices and shake their heads in pity. In short, Deaf moviegoers are treated as fourth-class citizens but being charged first-class ticket prices.” *Vikki, Montgomery County*

“Theaters do not care about our community. They know they can get away with it because the state allows it. This is an easy bipartisan win for legislators...” *Shane & Julie, Howard County*

“OC not only helps with accessibility, but also fundamental reading, like they did for my children. Even my own literacy skills improved with OC.” *Arlyn, Prince George’s County*

“I no longer attend cinema where CC devices are utilized, due to demeaning technical issues in their use. The ONLY functional equivalent is open captions. I will not spend my money at cinema otherwise.” *Kenneth, Kent County*

“With more open captioned movies, a lot more people would be more open to going to the movies.” *Leyland, Anne Arundel County*

“The first time seeing a movie with OC in the theater, I learned new words, phrases, and context. OC helps with learning language.” – *Smita, Montgomery County*

“I received partially charged or dead CC devices that prevented me from having enjoyable experiences with my family and friends.” *Wesley, St. Mary’s County*

“Open Captioning is a crucial step toward making entertainment accessible to all. OC also helps create a more inclusive environment – increasing attendance and revenue for movie theater owners.” *Randy, Howard County*

“I would love to take my Hard of Hearing husband and two daughters to the theaters and watch OC movies...without forcing my children, my husband, and myself to wear or carry around those ridiculous CC devices.” *Meredith, Carroll County*

“As parents, we haven’t been to a theater in years...OC movies would be a game-changer for our family!” *Tara, Frederick County*

“Our entire family is Deaf, and we enjoy going to the movies together, which is a family value. However, that family value is dictated by a system that does not include [us]. Please pass the OC bill.” *Dawn, Washington County*

# **HB 426 Open Captioning.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mat Rice

Position: FAV



## People On the Go of Maryland

**HB 426**

**Places of Public Accommodation -  
Motion Picture Houses - Captioning**

*Requiring all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and requiring 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.*

**Position: Support**

**February 2, 2024**

**Sponsored by Delegate Bhandari**

**Assigned to Economic Matters**

**Written by Mat Rice**

**People On the Go of Maryland**

Honorable chairperson, and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and our mission is to promote self-advocacy throughout the state. In furtherance of that mission, we believe in equal access to community resources; and that all people have the right to live, work, love, and play in the communities of their choosing, regardless of whether or not they have a disability or significant support needs.

People On the Go is pleased to provide this written testimony in support of House Bill 426 (HB 426). We support this bill because:

- It establishes a requirement for motion picture houses throughout the state (more commonly known as movie theaters), to offer a minimum of two showings per week which provide open-captioning access.
- This benefits those who are Deaf and hard of hearing, as well as others who might need to read a description of what is happening in a movie, versus relying purely on being able to see the scenes in the film.
- POG does not agree with the objection that this could negatively affect attendance at movie theaters. The legislation only specifies a minimum of two showings per week.
- Movie-goers could choose whether to see a standard-format show or a captioned show — just as they can choose from the many other formats now being offered, to attract and increase movie theater attendance (Dolby Cinema, RealD 3D, IMAX, etc.).
- Movie theaters are already offering many other perks such as being able to choose your seating, and what kind of concessions you can buy. It is a simple matter to flip a switch to enable captioning at a movie showing. It would benefit a large population segment of individuals who either need captioning themselves, or support such individuals.
- Without this service, this segment of the community could decide to just stay home and stream a movie with their own television's accessibility controls enabled. With such a service, the hearing and visually-impaired can participate in the community experience of seeing a movie, help small businesses, and stimulate the economy throughout the state of Maryland.

For these reasons, People On the Go advises a favorable report for HB 426. Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

M: 410-925-5706

E: [mat@pogmd.org](mailto:mat@pogmd.org)

**ODHHHB426SB92testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Usherla DeBerry

Position: FAV



**Wes Moore**  
*Governor*

**Aruna Miller**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Usherla DeBerry**  
*Acting Director*

**HB 426 MOTION PICTURE HOUSES - CAPTIONING  
SB 92 MOTION PICTURE HOUSES - CAPTIONING**

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF  
AND HARD OF HEARING**

**ACTING DIRECTOR USHERLA DEBERRY, Ed.S.**

**HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS  
Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
February 6, 2024**

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
February 8, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair and distinguished members of the committee, my name is Usherla DeBerry. I am honored to be here on behalf of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) as its acting director to provide testimony to support the caption bill. As one of the many Hard of Hearing Marylanders, I rely on captioning to watch the movies.

This legislation requires movie theaters that provide closed captioning to also provide open captioned movies twice a week. Open captions are an inclusive experience for all to share together regardless of their hearing or other language access needs. Closed captions are not inclusive. When individual caption devices fail, the user is excluded from the experience thus leading to further isolation or disillusionment from their peers.

Based on Johns Hopkins population projections in 2016 approximately 1.2 million people 12 years of age and older reside in Maryland. Due to centuries long stigmas around hearing loss, not as many people are willing to disclose their hearing loss to others. Most particularly the age related

loss. Some may choose to isolate themselves from others or to cruise through group conversations assenting to what others said without accessing all the information available to them. Bonding over shared experiences is important for one's health.

Captions are a universal design. And bonding with family and friends. Young children will be able to read the captioned text as part of their literacy. For people whose English may be their second or third language will benefit from both reading and listening to the dialogues and sound effects. Those who have auditory processing disorders will be able to follow the movie. Some neurodivergent children and adults rely on captioning.

Please support this bill for inclusivity of all. Thank you.