

MSD
Columbia
P·T·C·A·

Parent, Teacher, Community Association

January 29, 2024

Dear Maryland Legislators,

I, Meredith DeSomma, honored serving as President of MSD Columbia Parent, Teacher, Community Association (PTCA). I am writing on behalf of PTCA in support of SB 92 and HB 426, Open Captioning Movie Bill sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari and Senator Benjamin Brooks. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and requires that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two (2) screenings per week.

If you could picture this, if a class were to bring their twenty (20) Deaf students on a field trip to a movie theater to watch some kind of educational or children movie. The question is: Will the movie theater have enough Closed Caption devices for each student and staff? I highly doubt that, even if they made arrangements in advance to make sure they have enough for each person, especially if they do, maybe most of them are defective. One screen with Open Caption for all is the simplest, cheapest way to do it and the best part is everyone in that group will have full experience like everyone else with no conflicts with the devices.

Also, the PTCA community and I strongly believe that the bill will benefit our students, staff, families, etc at Maryland School of the Deaf especially outside of MSD Community. That benefit defines that this open captioning helps children and adults with language development in literacy. Also, benefits the community of Senior Citizens, Veterans, Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, persons with medical conditions such as auditory processing disorder, etc.

We request that you support SB 92 and HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill.

Sincerely,



Meredith DeSomma

MSD Columbia PTCA President

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