

February 8, 2024

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Deanna Scott and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 92 - 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 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 when I went to movies I did not understand anything. Having open captions provides me with equal access and more choices of when to go see a movie rather than being limited when to go. I should be able to go ANY time I want.

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

Sincerely,

Deanna Scott
Dmscott1222@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 Eric Scott and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 92 - 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 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.

Captiview screens don't work when the screen goes green or blue or yellow - the green captions get washed out to the point of unreadability. Caption glasses too often stop working in the middle of the movie. I have to miss 5-20 minutes of the movie or play guessing games and/or make up my own dialogue based on the action on the screen.

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

Sincerely,

Eric Scott
Eric.s.scott@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 Frederick Scott and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 92 - 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.

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

Frederick Scott
fwseleven@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 Jay Scotton and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 92 - 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 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,

Jay Scotton
jayscotton@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Teri Scotton 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,

Teri Scotton
tmscotton@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee::

My name is Debra Segal 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 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 need to make accessibility a priority in public spaces. I'm a hearing person and a sibling of a Deaf adult. I've experienced numerous obstacles to access captions while with my sibling. Just last week during a birthday celebration at a local movie theater the accommodations provided for captioning were malfunctioning and on countless other times have experienced electronics with dead batteries, broken or damaged equipment, and outdated systems that add additional pressure to the user. This can be stigmatizing and demoralizing when people just want to be able to access the world and even simple pleasures like watching a movie without barriers. Refunded tickets mean nothing when going to a movie becomes a burdensome experience. Please recognize the importance and benefits of captions for all.

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

Sincerely,

Debra Segal
Debracsegal@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mary Lynn Segal 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.

For the past 35 years my family has never been able to reliably go out to the movies together because the various captioning and access devices are of poor quality and are unreliable and cumbersome. The Deaf community needs to be asked what works for them instead of simply offering old technology that usually ends with more frustration and a Deaf family member leaving the movie early. In 2024 we demand equal access so all family members can enjoy sometimes life changing movies we all take for granted.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Segal
Mimi@vosburgh.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michael Seidman 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.

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 rely on captions to comprehend the voiced message and what some sound effects mean if I can't understand it.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Seidman
mas12806@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rachel Selekmán and I am Hard of Hearing.

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

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Most importantly, 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,

Rachel Selekmán
rselekmán0124@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mae Sellers 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,

Mae Sellers
Maesellers@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Sepielli, and I am Deaf. 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 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,

Karen Sepielli
KSepielli@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Peter Sepielli, and I am Deaf. 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.

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

Peter Sepielli
sepielli72@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Christopher Sewell 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.

I have a Deaf 5 year old child who's beginning to want to go to movie theaters but open captioning is needed - other alternatives (rearview, etc.) are not feasible for young children to use for various reasons. Open captions are the best solution for me to connect with my child for movie theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Christopher Sewell
itschrissewell@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shifra Shaulson 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,

Shifra Shaulson
shifra120@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Maxwell Shea 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,

Maxwell Shea
Maxwell.g.shea@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Terri Shirley 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.

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

Sincerely,

Terri Shirley
shastar57@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Judy Shugarts I am Hard of Hearing.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 426 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate 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 many theaters have Sony glasses or captiview, these are not satisfactory solutions. Although the Sony glasses work fairly well, they are heavy and painful overtime. The captiview cup holder is just useless because you cannot focus on the words and the screen at the same time. The ideal solution for the deaf and Hard of Hearing community is open captions for accessibility.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 436.

Sincerely,

Judy Shugarts
Hearing4better@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Paul Silverman and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 92 - 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 92.

Sincerely,

Paul Silverman
paul.silverman@verizon.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Raquel Silverware 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 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,

Raquel Silverware
Robbyz2004@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alex Simmons 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,

Alex Simmons
alex.simmons@deafmdcc.org

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Juliet Simmons 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,

Juliet Simmons
Julietjlm@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Samantha Simpson 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 same as 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,

Samantha Simpson
Scfsimpson1211@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Daniel Sinclair and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Allegany County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 92 - 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,

Daniel Sinclair
Rysin33@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is William Sinnott and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 42 - 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 someone who was born with microtia and atresia, I've had to wear bone conduction hearing aids my entire life. And while I have the good fortune of being able to hear well, I emphasize with those who can't. Open captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing is needed; we should all be able to enjoy the movie theater experience.

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

Sincerely,

William Sinnott
colonelwill@verizon.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Crystal Sisk 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.

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

Crystal Sisk
csisk1994@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennie Sivak 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 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,

Jennie Sivak
Jennie.sivak@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lisa Skaggs 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,

Lisa Skaggs
ljskaggs58@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rosemond Skeete 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,

Rosemond Skeete
Subb08880@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jayden Smetana
jsmetana97@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Debbie Smith 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 have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as 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,

Debbie Smith
Jerseydebbi21@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marcus Smith and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **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,

Marcus Smith
Bizzz2814@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Myoshi Smith and I am Hard of Hearing, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Myoshi Smith
myoshi88@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rowan Smith and I am Deaf, 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,

Rowan Smith
royalprotector1852@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Robert Snip and I am a person learning English as a second language. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as 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 Snip
robsnip@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is James Sobieraj and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as 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 Sobieraj
sobierajjim@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marbeth Sobieraj and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace 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 mom with a Deaf teenager. Open captioning is the most important catalyst for a positive movie experience. We are so grateful when “open captioning” is highlighted with a film we are excited to view in the theater.

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

Sincerely,

Marbeth Sobieraj
sobieraj3birds@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Haley Solomon 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,

Haley Solomon
hcsolomon@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Samuel Sonnenstrahl 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,

Samuel Sonnenstrahl
Samuel.Sonnenstrahl@gallaudet.edu

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kenneth Sorkin 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,

Kenneth Sorkin
krs768@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Anissa Sorokin 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 the mother of a deaf child with cochlear implants. He struggles to understand dialogue on the television, and I know that as he learns to read, captions will be an invaluable tool for him. I want him to be able to experience movies like everyone else—without having to effectively disclose his disability in public and without having to rely on often-faulty equipment.

It's also worth noting that though I am hearing, I would LOVE more open caption movie options. I struggle with tv and movie dialogue sometimes due to the sound mixing and I often use captions on the tv at home to help me comprehend what I'm watching.

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

Sincerely,

Anissa Sorokin
anissa.sorokin@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shanna Sorrells 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, 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,

Shanna Sorrells
sorrells1218@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mike Southard, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Cecil County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mike Southard
mikesouthard564@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Pauline Spanbauer and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **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,

Pauline Spanbauer
pes00@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Damon Sparrow 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.

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

Damon Sparrow
Tacamun@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brenna Spence 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,

Brenna Spence
Brennaspence92@me.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Regina Spence 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,

Regina Spence
Msdivah70@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is John Stafford 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.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as 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 Stafford
handyjohn1952@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Linda Stamper 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,

Linda Stamper
lcstamper@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mike Stancil 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Mike Stancil
mpkafkan@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Helen Starkweather 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 can access the movie without using devices or other methods, the same as other people who go to the movie.

I get frustrated with the inconsistency in providing open captions, especially when it seems feasible for certain groups. For example, the observation that "foreign" films often have open captions (subtitles) for English speakers, while accessibility for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals is not consistently prioritized, highlights an important disparity.

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

Sincerely,

Helen Starkweather
Helenstarkweather@yahoo.com