

Testimony inre HB426/SB92 “Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning”

Please vote For this bill.

By providing more open captioned viewing experiences, motion picture houses will meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide more equitable access to people who are unable to fully hear the sound in the movies.

An additional benefit is to enable our viewers for which English is a second language to more easily pick up the vocabulary and customary ways of speaking.

I have used two kinds of caption devices that were available in different locations. The Rear Window viewer needs to be aimed so the captions can be broadcast onto the device from the rear; this might put the captions in an awkward position for the viewer and make them difficult to read. The CaptiView devices require the viewer to look between slats to read two lines of text at a time and look up and down at the the device to see the captions and the movie. The receivers are one standard size, but the movie viewing population is diverse in height and viewing angle, which results in the devices not being comfortable for a lot of people. Both devices do not stay stable in the correct position, whether clamped or placed in a cup holder, meaning the viewer is spending time adjusting and/or holding the device throughout the movie showing, instead of focusing on the movie.

There are additional problems to consider: the number of devices available for a group going to a showing together; and the functioning of the devices, whether they are set to receive the correct transmission and whether they are fully charged. I have had devices run out of battery power in the middle of a showing, and other times, they have been set to the wrong theater or were not turned on, and it’s not clear to the average movie-goer how to operate them.

I would like it to be a requirement to show Open Captioned movies, preferably at all showings. Given the diverse schedules of the movie-goers who would benefit from the open captioning, the movie houses need to show the captions on different days of the week and at different times throughout the day.

Thank you for an affirmative vote on this Bill.

Iris Mars