

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.

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,

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.

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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,

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.

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

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

Sincerely,

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.

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

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

Sincerely,

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.

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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,

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.

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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.

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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,

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.

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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.

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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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.

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 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.

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,

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.

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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,

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.

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,

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.

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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,

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.

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,

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.

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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,

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

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

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