

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Faith Hart, 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,

Faith Hart
FaithHart92@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Becky Hartman 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,

Becky Hartman
fbakebh50@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Fred Hartman 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,

Fred Hartman
FHartman6@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joseph Hartung, 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,

Joseph Hartung
jfhartung@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is NaTira Harvey and I am Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

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

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

NaTira Harvey
nlharvey2910@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sarah Harvey and I am Hearing.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

Open captioned movies allow us to go to the movies as a family. With multiple hard of hearing children, captioning devices often aren't available, malfunction and otherwise make the experience less enjoyable. As a non-native English speaker I prefer open captioned movies myself as well, but hesitate taking up a seat in a popular open captioned movie sometimes so as to not impede access to someone who really needs it. This is an important initiative that benefits so many, and enacting this law would mean more consistent access to captioning, instead of really depending on theater company decisions.

I strongly prefer to have easy to read captions on all movies and TV. It doesn't just help the Deaf and other communities. It helps all of us make sure we fully understand the movie. Without it, I often will not go to theaters, preferring to wait until I can use the captioning at home. This reduces revenue for businesses. If MD theaters had consistent, quality captioning, I'd journey the short distance from VA for movies there.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Harvey
Sarahmsgc@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

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

Andre Hause
andrewjhause@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Debbie Hause and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

I am a Child of Deaf Adults (CODA) and have been in the deaf community all my life. When it comes to a favorite pastime that most Americans can enjoy, movies would be one. We go to the movies during holiday breaks and on date nights and with friends. There is nothing more isolating and inaccessible than not having Open Captioning. As it stands now, if my family would like to go to a movie... we have to 1) check the OC times of which there aren't many and typically it is planned around a time that is during the day so if you are working you are out of luck, OR 2) we rent a theater out to watch the movie together. Both are clearly unacceptable. Those ridiculous glasses that movie theaters offer... they don't work for lots of reasons especially if you are color blind..... It is time to stop ostracizing the community and understand that adding open captions to the movies does not take away from the experience especially when the movies already have the caption file. Each movie should have open captioning available all the time. Allowing all of us to share in the experience together.

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

Sincerely,

Debbie Hause
debbiehause@live.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Stephen Hause 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.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Hause
pastorstephenhause@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mandy Hawk 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.

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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,

Mandy Hawk
mandyhawk777@hotmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Charlotte HaysMurray, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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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.

Being able to read and hear dialog of a film makes it easier for me to fully understand what is going on in the film. As neurodivergent captions help improve the quality of the movie going experience.

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

Sincerely,

Charlotte HaysMurray
erissa72@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ulf Hedberg 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,

Ulf Hedberg
sweducks@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Hope Heflin 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,

Hope Heflin
hmheflin@mac.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mark Heflin 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,

Mark Hedberg
mheflin@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jessica Hengel and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder. I live in Howard County.

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

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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 ADHD and Autism. When at home, I always use captions to enable me to watch movies and TV shows and frequently feel frustrated when captions aren't available for something. My slower auditory processing speed can make it difficult to follow what's happening without captions, especially if there is any background noise like music, sound effects, or people nearby eating, talking, or just messing around with their stuff. In the grand scheme of things, there are people who need captions far more than I do and I see no reason why this accessibility feature wouldn't be default by now. It's an easy accommodation that can be made that improves the quality of life of people with various disabilities while not harming or taking away from the experiences of others.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Hengel
junniper610@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tammy Herrera 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.

Every movie theater needs to provide open captions for anyone who needs the access. Closed Captions are not accessible for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Tammy Herrera
herrerat9798@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Avril Hertneky 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,

Avril Hertneky
Avrilhertneky@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Emily Hertz, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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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 6 year old child that is Deaf. He loves watching movies at the movie theater and I fear that will be taken away from him as he gets older and watching movies becomes cumbersome because captioning devices are insufficient. Deaf and hard of hearing people deserve equal access.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Hertz
belle4151@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sara Lee Herzig 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.

There should be open captioned films available at more times and days so we have more options. This benefits not just deaf people but people learning English as second language or whenever the theater is noisy. They wouldn't miss anything. It should be the standard.

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

Sincerely,

Sara Lee Herzig
slh611@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Erika Hicks and I am a person with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder.

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

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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,

Erika Hicks
happysoprano1921@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Melani Hidalgo and I am a person learning English as a second language. 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Melani Hidalgo
hidalgomelani93@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Claire Hill and I am Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

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

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

Sincerely,

Claire Hill
chemo_kid@msn.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Deborah Hill, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

Sincerely,

Deborah Hill
debfaith3@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Wendy Hill 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 426.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hill
wshill7@icloud.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Renee Hipkiss 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,

Renee Hipkiss
rhipkiss.wvyvc@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is David Hirsch, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

I have not been to the theaters for a long time because they do not provide open captioning movies. I would love to take my children and grandchildren to theaters that provide open captioning movies and enjoy watching myself and with both children and grandchildren too.

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

Sincerely,

David Hirsch
davy.hirsch@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Charmaine Hlibok 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,

Charmaine Hlibok
charmainehlibok@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Greg Hlibok 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.

I am in support of the open captioning movies bill since equal access to information at a movie theatre for the deaf and hard of hearing patrons is a civil right. Forcing us to resort to the use of assistive device in order to view captions in a separate screen at a movie theatre is not justified as use of such device frustrates deaf and hard of hearing patrons' experience viewing a movie. Render open captioning available at movie theatres will not be detrimental to anyone as it will benefit many, not only deaf and hard of hearing patrons but also any children and non english speaking adults learning as well as any other language.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Hlibok
ghlibok@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mary L. Hodges 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,

Mary L. Hodges
maryhodgesmac@me.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Leala Holcomb and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

My family is a mixture of deaf and hearing members. My spouse is hearing, and I am deaf. We have a deaf child and a hearing child. We are frustrated by the restrictions we encounter in our ability to go and enjoy movies as a family. We are limited by a few selections of open captioned films that are shown only at specific days and times. It is frustrating knowing captions can be easily turned on at any time at any movie theater, but they simply choose not to because they do not value deaf people's needs for access.

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

Sincerely,

Leala Holcomb
lealaholcomb@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is JoyMarie Holder and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Washington County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

JoyMarie Holder
isignatmc@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lisa Holder and I am Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Washington County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

I am the pastor of Christ Deaf United Methodist Church. I am Deaf and have bilateral cochlear implants. I don't always want to wear my CIs because of headaches or personal preference, so I would strongly support open captioning for movies. As a person with ADHD and autism, the captions also give me a chance to catch something I missed even if I "heard" it since I temporarily lost focus on the movie. I believe captions benefit those learning the English language as a second language and even our own children learning how to read. I don't think there is a negative for anyone in providing open captioning for all in movies. I would strongly urge you to approve this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Sincerely,

Rev. Lisa Holder, MDiv, NIC
deafumcpastor@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ken Hollar and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Washington County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

As a senior citizen, I appreciate using captions while watching movies to understand all of the dialogue.

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

Sincerely,

Ken Hollar
nek07@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Linda Hollar and I am Hearing. I live in Washington County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

As a senior citizen, I appreciate using captions while watching movies to understand all of the dialogue.

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

Sincerely,

Linda Hollar
adn111@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lisa Hollywood, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Hollywood
LisaH31@verizon.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michael Hollywood, 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,

Michael Hollywood
hollywoodterps@verizon.net

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Paula Honda and I am Hearing. I live in Harford County.

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

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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 Honda
phonda1952@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ethan Hopko and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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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.

As a lifelong Maryland resident and an ardent moviegoer, I fondly remember my first movie experience. It was a delightful family outing to our local cinema. However, as years passed, my father's hearing began to deteriorate, turning these cherished family moments into frustrating experiences for him. He struggled to follow the dialogue, often asking us to whisper explanations. It was disheartening to see his growing sense of isolation in a place that once brought him so much joy.

This personal story underscores the importance of the Open Captioning Movies Bill for families like mine. By mandating open captions in cinemas, we can ensure that everyone, regardless of hearing ability, can fully enjoy movies. This bill is not just about accessibility; it's about preserving shared experiences and fostering inclusivity in our community spaces.

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

Sincerely,

Ethan Hopko
ecefour@outlook.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Thomas Horejcs 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.

This allows me, as a deaf father, to have a full experience with my hearing children at movie theaters. Right now, my experiences are limited.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Horejcs
thorejcs@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lisa Horne and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

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

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods 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 Horne
lisahorne99@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Patricia Horne and I am Deaf. I live in St. Mary's County.

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

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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,

Patricia Horne
hornepe03@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Hortie and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hortie
bethhortie@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Maria Hourihan 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 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,

Maria Hourihan
Reyeshourihn@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sophia Hu 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.

Accessibility for Deaf/Hard of Hearing people is important, but I do want to highlight that more and more hearing people are watching movies/videos with captions now. With an aging population as well as a more global community (where people are learning English as a second language), I cannot stress the benefits of captions for everyone. Open captions will only enhance the benefits, without any burden or cumbersomeness that come from captioning glasses (which are bulky/heavy and can lose power halfway through a movie; that happened to me a few times) and CaptiView captioning devices (which add strain to our eyes by forcing us to shift focus from CaptiView up close to the movie screen farther out).

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

Sincerely,

Sophia Hu
sophu26@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Margaret Huang and I am Deaf.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Huang
mjj6387@aol.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brook Hubbard and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Howard County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory of the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, children and adults learning to read, and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

I am a hard-of-hearing/late-deafened resident of Maryland. I am also a teacher in Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and a parent of two in the school system. Although I did eventually learn sign language, I spent most of my life growing up without such assistance. As my hearing worsened with age, confounded by Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD), I came to rely on captions more and more. It is now to the point where, depending on the voices, ambient noise, and the environment where I'm watching something, I cannot enjoy many movies or shows without captions. The first time I saw an Open Caption movie in the theaters it was fantastic. I was able to catch so many subtitles, including small remarks or quips often unheard because of the soundtrack, the ambient noise, or the audience. I only wish to be able to enjoy a movie the classic way, in a theater, without having to miss out on aspects everyone else catches.

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

Sincerely,

Brook Hubbard
BCHubbard1976@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Angela Huguenin and I am Deaf.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Angela Huguenin
ahugu1129@yahoo.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Cynthia Hunt 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,

Cynthia Hunt
cdhunt75@me.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Thomas Hunt, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Hunt
ichthus94117@gmail.com

February 6, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gausia Huq-Vali 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,

Gausia Huq-Vali
malisami2122@gmail.com