

January 29, 2024

Shannon Morrison
President
Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID)
Maryland

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Members of the Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Esteemed Members of the Maryland House of Delegates,

I trust this letter finds you well. My name is Shannon Morrison, and I am honored to serve as the President of the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID). I am writing to express our unwavering support for the Open Captioning Movie bill that is set to be reintroduced during the 2024 Maryland legislative session.

PCRID, as a local affiliate chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of the sign language interpreting profession in Maryland and Washington, D.C. One of our primary goals is to champion the quality, professionalism, and integrity of sign language interpreting, and we recognize the vital role that accessibility plays in achieving these objectives.

We wish to commend the Open Captioning Movies Committee (OCMC) for their relentless efforts in advocating for open captioned options in movie theaters. We firmly believe that the Open Captioning Movie bill aligns with our commitment to equal access for all, specifically benefiting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities. Furthermore, we appreciate the bill's potential to extend its positive impact to individuals with neurodiverse conditions and those who are English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

PCRID wholeheartedly endorses the Open Captioning Movie bill and stands in solidarity with OCMC in urging the Maryland House of Delegates to support its passage during the upcoming legislative session. We believe that implementing open captions will not only enhance the cinematic experience for a diverse audience but also contribute significantly to creating a more inclusive society.

As an organization deeply committed to supporting initiatives that align with our mission, PCRID welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with OCMC in any capacity that may contribute to the success of the Open Captioning Movie bill. Whether it involves providing valuable feedback, participating in discussions, or exploring potential volunteering opportunities, please consider PCRID as a dedicated partner in advancing this crucial accessibility initiative.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and for considering the impact that the Open Captioning Movie bill can have on improving accessibility and inclusion for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Shannon Morrison
PCRID President