



January 30, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 426 Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

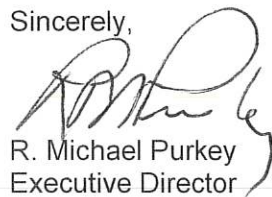
As a provider of human services for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, we encourage you to support HB 426. We believe that the time has come due to ensure that movie theaters provide more open captioned movie options, since there are currently very limited options when theaters decide for themselves on a voluntary basis.

It is currently very difficult for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to enjoy going to the movie theater. Oftentimes, the captioning devices being offered either are not sufficiently charged, breaking down, or not enough available devices. Plus, the malfunctioning devices are very distracting not only to the individuals using them, but to the people in the line of sight in the immediate surrounding area.

The solution is simple in eliminating the abovementioned frustrations: Open Captions.

Open captioning also helps with other types of disabilities. The bottom line is that everyone deserves to have equal access to the movie theater experience. Please ensure the passage of HB 426.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Purkey
Executive Director