

22 January 2024

Dear Maryland Legislature,

The Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP or <https://Wash-CAP.com>) supports the two open captioning (OC) bills: Senate Bill 92 and House Bill 426 (SB92 and HB426).

Wash-CAP is a Washington State non-profit. We are focused on implementing captions and text accommodations for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). Most people who are DHH do not sign and need captions to understand movies. Sadly, when there are no captions in the theaters' movies, folks who are DHH stay home and watch movies on their TV or devices (or skip movies).

CC was a good start. However, open captioned shows are important. Different data points indicate the CC method just isn't working for people who are DHH. At home, we watch all TV and movies with open captions. When we know the theater has open captions, we will go see the movies.

We hope the Maryland legislature passes this bill. It will help in Maryland, but then will help us work on this in Washington state too.

Thank you,

Dean Olson
President
The Washington Communication Access Project ([Wash-CAP](https://Wash-CAP.com))