

HB 1523

To the Member of the Economic Matters Committee:

I would like to testify and advocate for open captions in theaters across Maryland. I usually set up open captions for Hagerstown's Valley Mall/Regal Cinemas 16 thru general manager till Regal Cinemas changed their rules to request for open captions thru corporate as they say its a complicated long process, they take way too long to get back to me to confirm my request and provide the accommodation to set up open captions for specific movies. It is really simple to turn on open captions like with a switch or with a hard drive to put in a huge monitor. Lately the corporation at Regal is giving me a hard time to confirm my request, every time I email to set it up, they either ignore and reply back saying, your request cannot be accommodated and say that they already provide accommodations like rearview device that sits in the cupholder (captiview is one of their names I think) and captioning glasses. Those two accommodations are not reasonable for all. It is inconvenient, and can cause harm and more issues. Captioning glasses can cause headaches and uncomfortable feelings if you wear glasses for distance vision issues. The rearview device sits in the cup holder, so where will you put in your drink/popcorn? Also both devices need to be charged and it's not always charged, it can die during the movies and you don't want to miss out what is being said. I hope my testimony will push the bill to advocate for open captions available any time, any where all across Maryland. This will be a huge benefit, not limited to the deaf community, even for the anyone who prefers open captioning to watch movies in any movie theater. Thank you.

Samantha Simpson