

HB1238_DRM_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Audrey Sellers

Position: FAV

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 1238: PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION - MOTION PICTURE
HOUSES – CAPTIONING**

APRIL 5, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Thank you, Mister Chair Smith and Committee Members, for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1238: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning. Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the federally designated Protection and Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to improve community integration and access for people with disabilities living in Maryland.

HB 1238 would require chain movie theaters in Maryland to provide just two open-captioned showings of each film that is over 7 days past its original release date. AMC Theatres (franchised throughout Maryland) announced in late 2021 that it would start offering open-captioned showings. Laws requiring that movie theaters provide open captioning are increasingly common throughout the nation. The New York City Council passed a bill, which went into effect on January 15, 2022, that requires all movie theaters to offer 25% of all showings to be open-captioned.¹ Comparatively, Maryland’s approach is more cautious, but makes it easier for movie theaters to comply. Open captioning will also benefit seniors with moderate age-related hearing loss, children learning to read, and immigrants for whom English is a second language.

Although Title III “Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities” of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law over 30 years ago, movie theater patrons with disabilities still have not yet achieved equal enjoyment of this public accommodation. The applicable law under 28 CFR § 36.202(b) states:

“A public accommodation shall not afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.”

Pursuant to a Final Rule issued in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Justice, movie theaters must provide captioning technology to patrons with disabilities.²

¹ <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4601879&GUID=D699DDAA-933A-47AF-8645-9205878F762D>

² See https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie_rule.htm

When this Final Rule was issued, Deaf and hard of hearing individuals won the novel right to enjoy this public pastime. Most often, closed captioning is offered. Time has shown that closed captioning cannot function as the sole auxiliary aid available to customers with disabilities. Closed captioning devices provided to movie theater guests often do not function as promised, causing the customer to miss essential dialogue as their device is repaired or replaced. The movie theater may “meet its obligation to provide captioning... through any technology so long as that technology provides communication as effective as that provided to movie patrons without disabilities.”³ Since communication through a closed captioning device is unreliable at best, a movie theater may choose to “use open movie captioning as an alternative to complying with the requirements.”⁴

For these reasons, DRM supports House Bill 1238.

Respectfully,

Audrey Sellers

Advocate

Disability Rights Maryland, *formerly known as Maryland Disability Law Center*

1500 Union Avenue, Ste. 2000

Baltimore, MD 21211

410-727-6352 ext. 2601

AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org

³ 28 CFR § 36.303(d)(6)(i)

⁴ *Id.* at (d)(6)(ii)

Begue HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is JB Begue and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

JB Begue
jsbeon7@gmail.com

Berry HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Paul Berry Jr and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

John Paul Berry Jr
jpberryjr@gmail.com

Bopp HB 1238 Written Testimony-2.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Bopp and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is I used to take my three Hearing children to the movies when they were growing up. The lack of captioning caused a separation for me as I could not fully share their experience. Please don't let this happen to another generation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Amy Bopp
Bopp56@gmail.com

Daley HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Christopher Daley and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I am currently supporting this HB 1238 Open Captioning Movie Bill since I will like to able to attend any movie theater to see any movie without being followed what they movie employee selected the specific movie for us to be limited to be stuck with a movie to see with open-caption on the movie screen. I will like to be equaled like any hearing people to able to see any movie without following the limited choice of open caption movie as a deaf human being.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Christopher Daley
chrisnd@gmail.com

Fialkowski HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Fialkowski and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Fialkowski
rebeccam1968@yahoo.com

Hill HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hill
debfaith3@gmail.com

Johnson HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Johnson and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is I am dating a deaf man and movie theaters always providing open CC will allow us to enjoy going to the movies together. He is a visual person and enjoys movies and TV shows, however it is impossible to watch if there is no CC.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Johnson
ejohnsonrn06@hotmail.com

Meadows HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jimmy Lee Meadows and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Lee Meadows
moeyturk1@gmail.com

Scott HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Schaland Scott and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is anything to help a good cause.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Schaland Scott
procorre@gmail.com

Sisk HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Crystal Sisk and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Crystal Sisk
csisk1994@gmail.com

HB 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: Beth Wiseman

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1238

Places of Public Accommodation- Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

As an advocate for seniors and people with a disability, I was personally pleased to see this Bill. My hearing has become worse as time goes by.

It was suggested to me by a legislator to get hearing aids, with his not understanding that hearing aids are not the panacea a hearing person thinks they are. My \$6,000 aids (now lost when removing a mask) still did not give me the clarity needed when the speaker did not speak clearly, turned his face, or spoke with an accent. My days of attending theaters, operas, or movies are long gone. I know captioning cannot be done in theaters or operas, but it can be done in the movies.

I believe the cost of close captioning will be offset by the increased attendance of those who cannot now attend.

We all know people hard of hearing or deaf. Now you are learning of some of our problems in getting into the social network.

Nothing can replace what G-d gave us. If we do not have the hearing we once had, help us by letting us use our eyes.

Please give this Bill a favorable vote so it can go forward.

Thank you.

Beth Wiseman

1216 Glenback Avenue

Pikesville, Maryland 21208

410-484-6866

HB 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: Beth Wiseman

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1238

Places of Public Accommodation- Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

As an advocate for seniors and people with a disability, I was personally pleased to see this Bill. My hearing has become worse as time goes by.

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Nothing can replace what G-d gave us. If we do not have the hearing we once had, help us by letting us use our eyes.

Please give this Bill a favorable vote so it can go forward.

Thank you.

Beth Wiseman

1216 Glenback Avenue

Pikesville, Maryland 21208

410-484-6866

Baker HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carol Baker and I am Deaf. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,
Carol Baker
canport88@gmail.com

Billingslea HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nancy Billingslea and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Nancy Billingslea
nanbillings@gmail.com

Elliott HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is JoAnn Elliott and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is the various devices used for captioning in movie theaters make going to the movies torture. Rear window sits on an ill-fitting base and reads like a scrolling ticker at the stock exchange. it is difficult to turn it on without instructions in the dark. Glasses on the other hand, are heavy and maybe were cleaned by staff. Very painful as they sit heavy on the bridge of my nose. Open captioning saves me this torture. It is a pleasure to sit through a movie with open captioning. People who can't hear so well, adults to children can keep up with the movie by using the open captioning. Same for people whose first language is not English. I want to enjoy going to the theater, and until open captioning is available in most movies, I just stay home to watch. Put the open captions on all movies and include more of the population than "just" deaf and hard of hearing; a plus for the theaters and movie-going public as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Elliott
Elliott.tilden@gmail.com

Gladys HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gladys and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Gladys
Gladys20801@yahoo.com

Grimley HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Judith Grimley and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Judith Grimley
jggrimley@earthlink.net

Hannibal HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leslie Hannibal and I am Hearing. I live in the State of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Leslie Hannibal
Leslie.hannibal2@maryland.gov

Olson HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karen Olson and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Karen Olson
kolighthouse@gmail.com

Sally Jones HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sally Jones and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that I have been hard of hearing for the last 10 years and wear 2 hearing aids. Even with hearing aids it is not possible to hear everything clearly so I often miss part of the story in a movie. It would be wonderful to have the support of captions so I can confirm by reading what I think I have heard or relax entirely and enjoy the movie through text. Thank you.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Sally Jones
sallyjones436@gmail.com

Tilden HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Deanna Tilden and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I used three devices in my lifetime. Rear Window Captioning and CaptiView, both heads were heavy that arms were unable to hold well after months or years were used. They were dead from the beginning a few times since they forgot to plug into recharge. Also, strained my eyes because of the small fonts. The third device - Sony Subtitle Glasses were so heavy on my nose for 2 hours (twice in a row at two different times). I quit going to the theater for more than 10 years.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Deanna Tilden
dtilden86@gmail.com

White HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deanna Tilden

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carrie White and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Carrie White
Hearts9987@aol.com

Buckley HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brian Buckley and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Brian Buckley
Deafyoungman@aol.com

Burke HB 1238 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andre Burke, Sr. and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Andre Burke, Sr.
alburkesr@gmail.com

Dragoo HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kyrie Dragoo and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Kyrie Dragoo
opencec@kd.mm.st

Hertz HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Emily Hertz
belle4151@gmail.com

Hoxie HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kenton Hoxie and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I am a citizen of Maryland and the deaf community ought to have same accessible options for watching the movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Kenton Hoxie
kentonnh@yahoo.com

J Williams HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jock Williams and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is sometimes, I don't like to drive so far to DC where the theatres provide open captioning for deaf/HOH/late deafened. Also, the car gas wastes from long distance to DC. The gas price is high up because of Ukraine/Russian invasion. I can attend to see any OC movies from theatres in Randallstown, Owings Mills and Arundel Mills in Maryland. I live near the theatres instead of DC.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Jock Williams
Bodhisjw@me.com

kallungal HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Simon Kallungal and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that open caption to apply everywhere including movies, restaurants, airports, transportation, gambling casino. Any TV there must have all OC. Thank you.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Simon Kallungal
skallungal@yahoo.com

Kelly-Frey HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brenda Kelly-Frey and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kelly-Frey
brendacfrey@gmail.com

McCarthy HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Bridget McCarthy and I am Deaf. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that I have not gone to movies theaters in ages. It would be so much fun if the movies provided with open captions without having to wait a long time for the next movie event.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Bridget McCarthy
bridget3mccarthy@gmail.com

Morrison HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mark Allen Morrison and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is The Open Captions required in this bill will benefit my friends who are Deaf as well as me and my family. Even though I'm hearing, I access captioning on a regular basis for clarification when I don't understand what is being said. It will benefit my hearing kids who are avid readers and who will appreciate the joining of entertainment and reading practice. Movies and entertained should be for everyone, not just people who can hear. Our society will benefit when barriers to access are removed, and all people can enjoy movies regardless of hearing status. Thank you for considering.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Mark Allen Morrison
markallenmorrison@gmail.com

Pieters HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elke Pieters and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I do not find the accommodation devices very helpful at the movie theaters. Open Captioning would provide relief, ease and comfort while watching just like everyone else is.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Elke Pieters
Epieters@gmail.com

Poston HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kirsten Poston and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is for the longest time I loved movies.. especially those that have open captions. When that happens I feel totally included. I can enjoy the movies with my family. Captioned movies provide full access to those with hearing losses. It allows the individual to feel like they are viewed as equal by having captions and/or CART services.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Poston
mkposton@yahoo.com

R Hartman HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Conley-Hartman and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Conley-Hartman
Fbakebh50@gmail.com

Ram HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kalpana Ram and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Kaplana Ram
Kp2759@gmail.com

Richmond HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary Ann Richmond and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Richmond
deafmousie@gmail.com

Sam Jones HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Samuel Jones and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Samuel Jones
xetsam@comcast.net

St. Cyr HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carrie St. Cyr and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Carrie St. Cyr
carrie.st.cyr@gmail.com

Struhar HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jan Struhar and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238- Open Captioning Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that the movie theatre has very limited select movie showtime with open captions.

My story is that I am fully support open caption on the movies in any where. Few times I went to the movies where they provided google technology. It was little heavy and not match my eyeglasses. I also was surprised the google was not work out so that I had to replace another google.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Jan Struhar
jstruhar@gmail.com

Williams HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jenna Williams and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 support Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for all deaf, and hard of hearing moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Jenna Williams
jennapoehlmann@gmail.com

Zinza HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elke Pieters

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leslie Zinza and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Leslie Zinza
detpep1948@gmail.com

HB1238_ClosedCaptioning_KennedyKrieger_Support_SEN

Uploaded by: Emily Arneson

Position: FAV



DATE: April 5, 2022 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Judicial Proceedings
BILL NO: House Bill 1238
BILL TITLE: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 1238 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Bill Summary:

House Bill 1238 would require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture.

Background:

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

Rationale:

Kennedy Krieger strongly supports HB 1238, which will ensure that all movie theaters in the state of Maryland will provide at least two open captioned movies per week. The open captioned movies will be hugely beneficial for all people of all ages, including children, adults, second language learners, people with reading challenges, and more. This legislation will ensure that all Marylanders have the pleasure of fully engaging in leisure activities in our communities.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on House Bill 1238.

Davis HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Davis and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis
GDavis3115@gmail.com

Edington HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Edington and I am Deaf. I live in the State of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

John Edington
John.d.edington@gmail.com

Elsberg HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jackie Elsberg and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238- Open Captioning Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,
Jackie Elsberg
jelsberg@aol.com

Hamilton HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stephanie Hamilton and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hamilton
H6031@yahoo.com

J Davis HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jerome Davis and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238** - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Jerome Davis
JDDavis14@aol.com

K Williams HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karen Williams and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Karen Williams
gournentkarenw@gmail.com

Palabrica HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Edurado Palabrica and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Edurado Palabrica
evpalabrica@gmail.com

R White HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Roy White and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Roy White
Rwhite8088@aol.com

Simpson HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kelly Simpson and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Kelly Simpson
KLSimpson7@gmail.com

Tziallila HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Davis

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Krystallo Tziallila and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is Open captioning provides a better access to deaf and hard of hearing viewers. When I borrowed Google captioning goggles with green subtitles in a movie theater, I later noticed that the goggles hurt my nose and my ears, because they were heavy.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Krystallo Tziallila
ktziall@gmail.com

2022-04.05, MCCR - Places of Public Accommodation

Uploaded by: Glendora Hughes

Position: FAV

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”



Officers

Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director
Cleveland L. Horton II, Deputy Director
Nicolette Young, Assistant Director
Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel
Kara N. Hunt, Ph.D., Director of Education & Outreach

Governor
Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Commission Chairperson
Stephanie Suerth, MPA, CCEP
Commission Vice Chairperson
Janssen E. Evelyn, Esq.
Commissioners
Diane E. Bernier
Eileen M. Levitt, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Rabbi Binyamin Marwick
Magdalena S. Navarro, MSc
Gary C. Norman, Esq.
Jeff Rosen
Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA

April 5, 2022

House Bill 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning POSITION: Support

Dear Chairperson Smith, Vice Chairperson Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, health services and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

House Bill 1238 would require 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 certain screenings each week. The difference between the two captioning options is that closed captioning can be turned on and off by the viewer, while open captioning cannot be turned off by a viewer. A place of public accommodation that owns, controls, or operates at least two motion picture houses must provide open captioning for each motion picture it screens each week that is produced and offered with closed captioning for at least one screening during a weekday and one screening during the weekend. The bill excludes smaller entities and ensures that the frequency requirement is not too cumbersome.

Watching movies is an American pastime that generates billions of dollars in ticket sales each year and it is important to ensure that all citizens have equal access to public accommodations. Nationally, there are approximately thirty million Americans that are hearing impaired. Hearing impaired citizens often struggle to engage with video media because the current accommodations fall short. For example, special glasses that are provided to display captions are often uncomfortable or malfunctioning. There are over a million Maryland citizens that struggle with hearing loss and would immediately benefit from this legislation. Further, captions can also help emerging readers, visual learners, and nonnative speakers. While there are many alternatives to increasing access to video content, the most effective and inclusive method is captions. Hawaii became the first in the nation in 2015 to require theaters to play open captions for at least two showings a week of each movie, catering to 3,700 Hawaiians on an island of nearly one and a half million people.

MCCR’s Biennial Civil Rights & Fair Housing Gala Celebration: April 30, 2022

William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1631

Phone: 410-767-8600 · Toll Free: 1-800-637-6247 · Maryland Relay: 711 · Fax: 410-333-1841

Website: mccr.maryland.gov · E-Mail: mccr@maryland.gov

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on HB 1238. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

A Crumrine HB 1238 Written Testimony-3.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Crumrine and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,
Amy Crumrine
Anycrumrine72@gmail.com

Dencer HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brenda Dencer and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Brenda Dencer
brendadencer@gmail.com

Galloway HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Donald Galloway and I am Deaf. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

The story is that I support this bill to have OPEN captioned movies at all move theaters in Maryland. I get tired of wearing uncomfortable devices - glasses - too heavy, challenging reading the captions via rearview device put in the drink cup of the chair - no place for my drink. Both devices were sometimes not working because they forgot to charge the battery. All Deaf and Hard of hearing people should be equally accessible for an OPEN captioned file, like hearing people hear everything through auditory input. Again, please pas this Bill. Thank you.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,
Donald Galloway
dgalloway14@yahoo.com

Jameison HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Donna Lee Jameison and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Donna Lee Jameison
jameisondonna@gmail.com

Leffler HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jacob Leffler and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Jacob Leffler
Jleffler24@gmail.com

R Crumrine HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Roy Crumrine and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Roy Crumrine
Roycrumrine72@gmail.com

Roth HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Holly Roth and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Holly Roth
Hroth929@aol.com

Tarry HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sherrie Tarry and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Tarry
StarryAnn74@gmail.com

Watson-Barrato HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heather Watson-Barrato and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Heather Watson-Barrato
hwbarrato@gmail.com

Zubris HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Zubris and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is I have deaf friends and family, this is a great move to help everyone feel included. It's a simple but effective change.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Zubris
gabrielle.zubris@yahoo.com

Edington HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Edington and I am Deaf. I live in the State of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

John Edington
John.d.edington@gmail.com

F Brown HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Frances Brown and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Frances Brown
francesbrown@verizon.net

Fasakin HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Toyin Fasakin and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Toyin Fasakin
toyinseu@gmail.com

Masi HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carla Masi and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Carla Masi
carlaemasi@gmail.com

McLellan HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Fred McLellan and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Fred McLellan
Fred.mclellan56@gmail.com

Owens HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rita Owens and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Rita Owens

nkowens@gmail.com

Taneja HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rana Taneja and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Rana Taneja
Taneja48@gmail.com

Varia HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kalpana Varia and I am Deaf. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Kalpana Varia
dkharshiv15@gmail.com

Westfall HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michele Westfall and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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'm Deaf, but I am also a mother of two Deaf children. My children and I love to go to see captioned movies--I have taught my children that their access is important and should never be shortchanged or dismissed. We have the right to know what is being said on screen, and the failure of theaters to consistently provide captioning is akin to censorship. Do the right thing and ensure that we have access to movies! It's a no-brainer.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall
fuzzyw5@yahoo.com

Whitemire HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnn Elliott

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tawanta Whitmire and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Tawanta Whitmire
whitmire7622@gmail.com

Beach HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Bennett Hastings Beach and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238- Open Captioning Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that I have used various devices provided by the theaters. Sometimes they work fine — sometimes they don't. When I watch movies at home, I can count on captions, and I'd like to be able to see them in theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Bennett Hastings Beach
benhbeach@gmail.com

Clark HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sharon Clark and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that I have 10 year old daughter who is Deaf and deserves/is worthy of the right to language. There is no person or governmental group of any kind who has the right to dictate who can fully enjoy a movie and who cannot. There is no governmental entity who can judge what times of the day or month someone can have equal access to information. There is no governmental entity who has the right to dictate that some people are worthy of full. If the fear is that movie theaters will go out of business and lose all of their money that is an incorrect assumption. If the current laws would not be acceptable for the children or grandchildren of any of the individuals who created the laws then they are also not acceptable for my daughter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Sharon Clark
sharon.lynn65@gmail.com

Hoover HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara Hoover and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that some of my close friends and family are very hard of hearing and cannot attend movies with me because of their hearing disability. This seems so unnecessary.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hoover
hooverb@msn.com

M Weinstock HB 1238 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee

State Capitol

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michael Weinstock and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Michael Weinstock

BigMHW@gmail.com

Martin HB1238 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara Martin and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Barbara Martin
bjmartin626@gmail.com

Meyerson HB1238 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ellen Meyerson and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Ellen Meyerson
Elmeyerson@yahoo.com

Pearlman HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara G Pearlman and I am Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that this is an important step towards including everyone in our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,
Barbara G Pearlman
barbgpearlman@gmail.com

von Garrel HB1238 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Conrad von Garrel and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that believe to have full access to watch movie with open caption. Be like when hearing people come in movie and watch. Why not us? No more device!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Conrad von Garrel
vongarrelco@gmail.com

Weinstein HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marilyn Weinstein and I am Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Weinstein
mrw0304@yahoo.com

Weinstock HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: John Berry

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Janet Weinstock and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Janet Weinstock
Janetweinstock13@gmail.com

ALDA HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

ALDA, Inc.
8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2
Rockford, IL 61107-5336



815-200-9339 Voice
TTY Users dial 711
Email: info@alda.org
www.alda.org

ALDA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

April 4, 2022

Re: HB 1238, Open Captioned Movies

Dear Maryland Legislature:

The Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA) writes in support of HB 1238, a modest but important step towards providing deaf and hard of hearing people with the opportunity to fully enjoy movies. ALDA's members have lost some or all of their hearing, many after having acquired spoken language.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires "places of public accommodation," specifically including movie theaters, to provide effective communication for people with sensory disabilities. For deaf and hard of hearing patrons, this is done through captioning -- putting the dialogue and other aural information into written form so that they can "hear" with their eyes. Few if any of ALDA's members are able to enjoy movies without captioning.

After a number of successful court cases, some involving ALDA as an organizational plaintiff, the federal Department of Justice issued regulations in 2016 requiring all movie theaters to provide individual viewing devices, which the major theater chains were already doing. In theory, patrons who want captioning can use those devices without altering the movie-going experience for others. This method is referred to as closed captioning (CC), because the captions are visible only to those who choose to see them.

While the viewing devices can deliver captions, experience has shown that they frequently provide an unacceptable experience. Glasses that show the captions on the lens are heavy and physically uncomfortable, and are designed to rest on top of the ear, where hearing aids or cochlear implants are located. Devices attached to a

MISSION STATEMENT: To Support the Empowerment of Deafened People

flexible arm on a base that theoretically fits into the cup-holder frequently fall out of alignment or out of the holder altogether. All of the devices must be properly maintained and charged, and that requirement is often overlooked. The devices must be checked out and returned, and many users are uncomfortable with the conspicuous nature of the devices.

For those reasons, deaf and hard of hearing patrons greatly prefer open captions (OC), in which the captions appear on the screen like subtitles for foreign-language films and provide a hands-free and hassle-free experience.¹ The ADA does not require OC, but the ADA explicitly states that state and local laws providing greater protection for people with disabilities are valid.

In 2015, Hawaii became the first state to require OC showings, passing a state law essentially identical to HB 1238, and that law is now permanent. In 2021, New York City passed an ordinance requiring four OC showings each week for most movies. A pending ordinance in the District of Columbia would require that a minimum of 12% of all movie showings be OC.²

The theaters believe that some hearing people find on-screen captions distracting and avoid those showings. Attendance figures do indicate lower attendance at OC showings than at other showings. But those numbers, in and of themselves, prove almost nothing.

People who want to avoid OC likely go to another showing of that movie, or to a different movie at the same theater, and in those cases, the theaters lose no revenue. On the other hand, some people who attend OC showings would otherwise not be in the theater at all, and those patrons, even if their numbers are modest, represent revenue the theaters would otherwise not realize at all. The question is not attendance at individual OC showings, but rather, whether a modest number of OC showings adds to or detracts from total revenue.

Some tantalizing data comes from a pre-pandemic experiment in D.C., where a number of theaters began offering some OC showings. The National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) engaged Ernst & Young to develop an economic model that would predict movie attendance based on variables like showtime and type of movie. Sometimes, when a movie was showing in more than one auditorium, an OC showing would take place within an hour of a non-OC showing of the same movie. In those

¹ In an admittedly unscientific survey taken by the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf in connection with the proposed federal regulations, 95% of respondents preferred OC to CC showings.

² The federal CC requirements remain in place in those jurisdictions as they would in Maryland.

cases, attendance at the OC showing was usually lower than at the non-OC showing. But combined attendance at both showings was **higher** than the predicted attendance at those two showings.

Deaf and hard of hearing patrons are not trying to impose their movie-going preferences on everyone. A movie is typically shown 31 times per week in each auditorium -- a blockbuster being shown in three auditoriums will have roughly 90 showings per week. Requiring two of those showings be OC will not meaningfully limit the choices available to people who don't want on-screen captions but will provide real and important benefits for those who prefer the OC format.

For the foregoing reasons, ALDA believes HB 1238 is modest in scope, but a big step towards equitable treatment for the substantial population of deaf and hard of hearing movie-goers. We urge your support.

Very truly yours:

John F. Waldo
ALDA Counsel
Law Office of John F. Waldo
2108 McDuffie Street
Houston, TX 77019
(206) 849-5009
johnfwaldo@hotmail.com

cc: Ken Arcia, ALDA President
Carrie Levin, ALDA Vice President
ALDA Board of Directors

Baltimore City Commission on Disabilities HB 1238

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF EQUITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS
MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

DANA P. MOORE, Chief Equity Officer and Director
7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 4, 2022

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: HB 1238 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning
Recommendation: Position letter from Baltimore City Commission on Disabilities
to Support HB 1238

Hearing date: April 5, 2022 at 1:00 pm – Senate Judiciary Committee

Greetings,

The Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on Disabilities was created as part of the Baltimore City Government in 1993. Since that time, it has reviewed programs and services for people with disabilities, identified barriers to programs and services available to people with disabilities, recommended ways to overcome those barriers, and made recommendations regarding existing and proposed legislation pertaining to people with disabilities.

The Commission strongly support HB 1238 – Open Captioning at Movie Theatres, which Delegate Bhandari sponsors. This bill ensures that movie theatres provide two days of the week with all the movies being open captioning. Captioning benefits everyone, including deaf people, hard of hearing people, people who are learning English and also children/adults who are learning to read. In addition, people with late hearing loss benefit from captioning!

We urge you to support and vote to pass HB 1238.

Regards,

Commissioner JB Begue

Disability Rights Maryland HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 1238: PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION - MOTION PICTURE
HOUSES – CAPTIONING**

APRIL 5, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Thank you, Mister Chair Smith and Committee Members, for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1238: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning. Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the federally designated Protection and Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to improve community integration and access for people with disabilities living in Maryland.

HB 1238 would require chain movie theaters in Maryland to provide just two open-captioned showings of each film that is over 7 days past its original release date. AMC Theatres (franchised throughout Maryland) announced in late 2021 that it would start offering open-captioned showings. State laws requiring that movie theaters provide open captioning are increasingly common throughout the nation. New York’s City Council passed a bill, which went into effect on January 15, 2022, that requires all movie theaters to offer 25% of all showings to be open-captioned.¹ Comparatively, Maryland’s approach is more cautious, but makes it easier for movie theaters to comply. Open captioning will also benefit seniors with moderate age-related hearing loss, children learning to read, and immigrants for whom English is a second language.

Although Title III “Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities” of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law over 30 years ago, movie theater patrons with disabilities still have not yet achieved equal enjoyment of this public accommodation. The applicable law under 28 CFR § 36.202(b) states:

“A public accommodation shall not afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.”

Pursuant to a Final Rule issued in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Justice, movie theaters must provide captioning technology to patrons with disabilities.²

¹ <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4601879&GUID=D699DDAA-933A-47AF-8645-9205878F762D>

² See https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie_rule.htm

When this Final Rule was issued, Deaf and hard of hearing individuals won the novel right to enjoy this public pastime. Most often, closed captioning is offered. Time has shown that closed captioning cannot function as the sole auxiliary aid available to customers with disabilities. Closed captioning devices provided to movie theater guests often do not function as promised, causing the customer to miss essential dialogue as their device is repaired or replaced. The movie theater may “meet its obligation to provide captioning... through any technology so long as that technology provides communication as effective as that provided to movie patrons without disabilities.”³ Since communication through a closed captioning device is unreliable at best, a movie theater may choose to “use open movie captioning as an alternative to complying with the requirements.”⁴

Maryland should join the cadre of states implementing similar disability rights legislation, in the interest of compliance with Title III of the ADA.

For these reasons, DRM supports House Bill 1238.

Respectfully,

Audrey Sellers

Advocate

Disability Rights Maryland, *formerly known as Maryland Disability Law Center*

1500 Union Avenue, Ste. 2000

Baltimore, MD 21211

410-727-6352 ext. 2601

AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org

³ 28 CFR § 36.303(d)(6)(i)

⁴ *Id.* at (d)(6)(ii)

Frederick County Commission on Disabilities HB 123

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

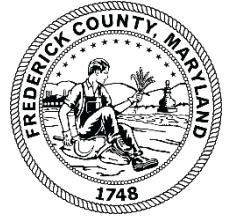


FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Citizens Services Division

401 Sagner Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-1110

TTY: Use Maryland Relay 711
www.frederickcountymd.gov/fccod



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The Frederick County Commission on Disabilities meets virtually on the second Monday of each month except December, at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to observe the meetings on the Commission's Facebook page:
www.Facebook.com/FrederickCOD

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: HB 1238 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Recommendation: Position letter from Frederick County Commission on Disabilities to Support HB 1238

Hearing date: April 5, 2022 at 1:00 pm – Senate Judiciary Committee

Greetings,

The Frederick County Commission on Disabilities (COD) was created as part of the Frederick County government in 1994. Since that time, it has reviewed programs and services for people with disabilities, identified barriers to programs and services available to people with disabilities, recommended ways to overcome those barriers, and made recommendations regarding existing and proposed legislation pertaining to people with disabilities.

We were recently contacted by Tina Joyner, who is a Vice-President of Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD). Their mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind individuals in the state of Maryland. Ms. Joyner made us aware of HB 1238. The bill is in the Senate within the Judiciary Committee, which will have a hearing on it on April 5, 2022, at 1 p.m.

The members of the COD strongly support HB 1238 – Open Captioning at Movie Theatres, which Delegate Bhandari sponsors for three different county organizations, which are Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD), Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD) and Prince George County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD). This bill ensures that movie theatres provide two days of the week with all the movies being open captioning.

We urge you to support and vote to pass HB 1238.

Karen Duffy
Chair

Our Mission:

To inform, educate and elevate “Disability Awareness” among people with disabilities and the community; and to promote an inclusive environment for all in our county.

Hawaii HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 431
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 31, 2022

Ms. Tina Joyner, Vice President
Maryland Association of the Deaf
P.O. Box 527
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Subject: Support for House Bill 1238, Open Captioning at Movie Theatres

Dear Ms. Joyner:

Thank you for contacting me regarding House Bill (HB) 1238, Open Captioning at Movie Theatres. I am pleased to support this bill.

As you know, Hawaii adopted Act 154 in 2019. This bill required movie theaters to provide at least two showings per week per movie offered with open movie captioning. Since then, our deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind individuals have been able to enjoy movies. This has been especially popular with senior citizens.

I was pleased to introduce and support the adoption of Act 154 in Hawaii. I hope that the State of Maryland will join Hawaii in adopting a similar measure.

Best wishes as your General Assembly continues to consider HB 1238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott K. Saiki".

Scott K. Saiki
Speaker of the House

Kennedy Krieger Institute HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



DATE: April 5, 2022 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Judicial Proceedings
BILL NO: House Bill 1238
BILL TITLE: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 1238 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Bill Summary:

House Bill 1238 would require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture.

Background:

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

Rationale:

Kennedy Krieger strongly supports HB 1238, which will ensure that all movie theaters in the state of Maryland will provide at least two open captioned movies per week. The open captioned movies will be hugely beneficial for all people of all ages, including children, adults, second language learners, people with reading challenges, and more. This legislation will ensure that all Marylanders have the pleasure of fully engaging in leisure activities in our communities.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on House Bill 1238.

MDAD Coalition HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) and with support from all the organizations that serve communities in the State of Maryland. We are asking you to support HB 1238 - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer open captioning for each screening of a motion picture all day two times weekly (one day during the week and one day during the weekend). This will give the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community more access to watch the movies. Right now, the rule doesn't require the movie theater to provide the access.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who are children, adolescents, college students, adults and foreign people who are learning to read and write English. 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 D/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 we appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Poston, President
Maryland Association of the Deaf
President@mdad.tv

Jacob Leffler, President
Baltimore City Association of the Deaf
Bcadeaf2020@gmail.com

Elke Pieters, President
Howard County Association of the Deaf
HCADeaf@gmail.com

Gabrielle Davis, President
Prince George County Association of the
Deaf
PGCAD2020@gmail.com

Leslie J Zinza, President
Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, INC
Detpep1948@gmail.com

Linda Stoltz, President
Maryland Deaf Community Center
Lstoltz16@gmail.com

Chris D. Johnson, President
District of Columbia Area Black Deaf
Advocates
President@dcadba.org

Sophia Hu, President
Greater Washington Asian Deaf
Association
Gwada.dmv@gmail.com

Danilo Torres, Interim President
Latino Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Association of the Metropolitan Washington
DC Area
vicepresident@myldhh.org

Apurva Varia, President
Metro South Asia Deaf Association
apu@msada-dc.org

Eddie Martinez, Jr., President
Metropolitan Washington Association of
DeafBlind
President@mwadb.org

Jeffrey Buxbaum, President
Washington Society of Jewish Deaf
Wsjd1@gmail.com

MDAD HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Vice President

Tina Joyner

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Tisha Bera

Blaise Delahoussaye

Angela Rogers

Peter Un

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) is a statewide organization that protects the interests of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Marylanders concerning accessibility and equity issues. We are advocating for the passage of the HB 1238 sponsored by Delegate Bhandari regarding movie theater captioning. There are approximately 1.2 millions Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals living in the State of Maryland. Therefore, it is imperative that the State of Maryland take the lead in requiring movie theaters to provide on-screen captioning accessibility.

NATO (National Association of Theatre Owners) has proven over and over that their promises and excuses have literally fallen on “deaf ears” in dictating when and where captioned movie technology should be shown based on their perception of movie going audiences. This is a practice that has proven to be problematic for many Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing patrons.

The current closed captioning (CC) technology in the State of Maryland movie theaters are inconvenient to have to return and give some people headaches having to move their heads up and down from screen to device and focusing on the device. These caption boxes or glasses either break down in the middle of a movie or the battery dies, necessitating Deaf, Hard of Hearing movie patrons having to leave the theater and missing part of the movie to get a replacement. This is not acceptable. With the broken equipment, it is not an effective way to have equal access as others.

Open Captions (OCs), in contrast, are better suited to movie enjoyment, less prone to failure and enable us to remain invisible and maintain our dignity, while also benefiting a wider segment of the public (children, seniors, the Deaf, those learning English as a second language, etc.).

We look forward to a favorable report on HB 1238.

Thank you,

MDAD Board of Directors

NAD HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



March 11, 2022

Dear Maryland Legislators:

Every day, people are able to go to theaters and watch any movie they want on a big screen. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) respectfully asks that you support the right of deaf and hard of hearing people to have the equivalent and equitable experience by passing House Bill 1238, the Open Captioning Movies Bill. Based in Maryland, the NAD is the oldest national civil rights organization in the United States, having been founded in 1880 and overseen for the past 142 years by deaf and hard of hearing leaders. The NAD also has a state association affiliate in Maryland – the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD). With this letter, the NAD and MDAD also wish to respond to the comments of the National Association of Theater Owners (NATO).

You would think that the National Association of Theater Owners would want to welcome everyone to this experience and expand their audience. Unfortunately, their history shows that they are short sighted and that they have only relented in increasing access when the political will was too great.

When the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was passed with a mandate for equal access for everyone including captioning, NATO and its members resisted the provision of captioning in their theaters. To counter this resistance, the deaf community persisted in bringing legal cases which ultimately led to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in the *State of Arizona v. Harkins Amusement* case, 603 F.3d 666 (9th Cir. 2010). With that ruling, movie theaters finally had to provide access for deaf and hard of hearing patrons through captioning technology. However, even with that landmark ruling and other cases that expanded this mandate for captioning access, many deaf and hard of hearing people were frustrated with the deficiencies of closed captioning technology used by movie theaters.

NATO has also resisted any survey of deaf and hard of hearing people regarding their satisfaction with the closed captioning movie theater equipment. Instead, NATO dismisses any allegations of such complaints by arguing that no one files complaints with them. Yet, nearly every deaf and hard of hearing person who has gone to a movie and had to endure the theater's closed captioning equipment will tell you that they have indeed complained. Instead of tracking complaints, NATO's member theaters offer refunds, free popcorn, and other concessions.

This frustration with closed captioning movie technology was so significant that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) took note and opened a rulemaking process to collect comments from both the industry and the community on the issue of closed captioning regulations. Although NATO collaborated with various organizations including the NAD on proposing specifications for closed captioning equipment in movie theaters, the NAD and other organizations representing deaf and hard of hearing people also urged the DOJ to recognize the need for open captioned showings. The DOJ chose not to address this plea for open captioning but instead focused on closed captioning technology only and issued a Final Rule on November 21, 2016 which compelled every movie theater to follow a specific set of requirements for closed captioning access (see, https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie_captioning_rule_page.html).

Predictably, deaf and hard of hearing people continued to be frustrated because closed captioning equipment failures are very common. While the DOJ's 2016 Final Rule made it possible in theory for deaf and hard of hearing people to go to any movie theater and be able to watch practically any movie, these equipment failures were so common that going to the movies was fraught with disappointment rather than the equal access that was the idealized goal.



Such frustrations were the impetus for the deaf and hard of hearing community to seek state and local level remedies -- starting in Hawaii in 2015 with a new open captioning law. NATO fought this effort and succeeded in watering down this legislation in 2017. The deaf and hard of hearing community fought back and finally secured passage of a permanent open captioning law in 2019. NATO repeatedly misrepresented to Hawaii legislators that the deaf and hard of hearing community was happy with closed captioning access. NATO also argued in Hawaii that the mandate for some showings of open captioning at their theaters would harm their theaters and drive away audiences.

Since then, several other states and cities have sought to pass similar open captioning mandates for movie theaters. NATO has resisted every one of them including in Maryland. However, all of their arguments fail.

If it is true that open captioning is driving down the ability of movie theaters to stay in business, then why has AMC, the largest chain of movie theaters and a member of NATO, announced that they have established open captioning at 240 locations? If open captioning was truly disastrous for movie theaters, then AMC would never have done this.

Instead, movie theaters are seeing the open captioning on the wall, and recognizing that there is a demand for open captioning. According to research done by Johns Hopkins experts, there are at least 48 million people in the United States who are deaf or hard of hearing (see, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3564588/>). In Maryland alone, it is estimated that there are more than 1.2 million deaf and hard of hearing people (see, <https://odhh.maryland.gov/press-releases/featured-story/over-1-2-million-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-marylanders/>). This is a huge audience that needs access at movie theaters along with their families and friends.

Moreover, movie theaters in Maryland are failing to provide enough showings with open captioning to ensure access to the latest movies. Too often, movie theaters make arbitrary decisions on which movies will be open captioned and the low frequency of showings. They will often show a very popular movie with open captioning only once during its run and do so on a day and time that is inconvenient for most people.

HB 1238 would ensure two open captioning showings of each movie per week, and this is not unreasonable. Would the deaf and hard of hearing community be seeking open captioned showings of movies in several states if they were truly happy with closed captioned showings? As was said in *Princess Bride*, "Inconceivable!" and in *Clueless*, "As if!"

Deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders simply ask that we be able to watch movies at any time without dreading frequent machine failures. Please pass HB 1238 to make that possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.A. Rosenblum', is written over a white background.

Howard A. Rosenblum
Chief Executive Officer

TDI HB 1238 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



Friday 11 March 2023

Maryland Senate
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI) is writing to request your favorable support for HB 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning.

TDI is the nation's leading advocate for deaf and hard of hearing people's equitable access to the phone, TV, cable, wireless, and broadband networks.

We commend the Maryland Association of the Deaf's (MDAD) strong advocacy for this bill, we believe that this bill will help not only the deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders, but the general population as well. Studies have shown the hearing loss population is growing 4% faster than the general U.S. population.

It is undisputed that movies have influenced society's advancements in politics, economics, and social experiences. Unfortunately, far too often when a deaf or hard of hearing movie attendee requests for captioning devices, the devices they receive are typically broken, non-functional, or uncomfortable to use. As a result, the DHH movie goer has no choice but to either watch the movie without captions or ask for a refund and have their plans ruined. This is not an equitable experience. Any Marylander, regardless of their disability, should be able to conveniently watch their preferred movie of their choosing at any cinema house.

Deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders deserve to enjoy the movies with captions and share the same experience as every other person watching the same movie.

TDI encourages the committee to support HB 1238. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Kaika
Chief Executive Officer
TDI

A Varia HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Apurva Varia and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that when I go to a movie theater, I have to wear a big and chunky glasses that projects the captions on the glasses. It was not a good experience because I have to hold my head and try to read the words for 2 hours. That is why I want open captioning in every theaters all the times. We should be inclusive like everyone else.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Apurva Varia
apuvarya@gmail.com

Amy Markel HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Markel and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is my whole family is relying on captioning and learning from it. It is important for most of people to understand movies with captioning and enjoy equal opportunities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Amy Markel
Amyjoy46@gmail.com

Blanco HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Blanco and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that the movie theatre has very limited select movie showtime with open captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Blanco
jblanco519@gmail.com

C Meadows HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cindy Meadows and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that I'm wearing eyeglasses without progressive lens. They offered me the cup-holder captions. Hone with you, I cannot read it because I need reading glasses to read it. It wasn't enjoyable. I prefer my own captioned movies at the peak hours - not during the church hours! My home is in Calvert County and I do not want to drive more than 30-45 minutes for that open-captioned movies. Movie theater is in Prince Frederick, MD.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,
Cindy Meadows
annajoeymom@gmail.com

Dunkle HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Yvonne Dunkle and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that open captioning is a human right for deaf people to access to information everywhere. Not only for deaf people, research shows that it does benefit other people using English as second language and so forth.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Dunkle
ydunkle@aol.com

Kneipp HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Casey Kneipp and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that the movie theatre has very limited select movie showtime with open captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Casey Kneipp
kcandave@verizon.net

Nicholsen HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carrie NicholSEN and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Howard County

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Carrie NicholSEN
cnicholSEN@msn.com

Skaggs HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Skaggs and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that Deaf people should have access to movie entertainment the same way as hearing people. Movies are great when it is understood!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Lisa Skaggs
ljskaggs58@gmail.com

Weiner HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary T. Weiner and I am Deaf. I live in the Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that it will be wonderful if we can see captions on the screen without those glasses which are extremely uncomfortable and undependable. Thank you!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Mary T. Weiner
lanierweiner@gmail.com

Wijetilaka HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Thushara T Wijetilaka and I am Deaf. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Thushara T Wijetilaka
ttw_smile@yahoo.com

Brockway HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kathleen L. Brockway and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238- Open Captioning Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that personally, open captioning is the best option because the equipment often are not functioning and not worth to use when there are a packed audience and equipment runs out. The theaters HAVE open captioning switch but won't turn on unless the theater owners say so. This is wrong and forcing us to come at unorthodox hours - often during the daytime, working hours M-F or at unusual time that we would not make it to. We need peace and use open captioning at any time. Fair is fair. It is NOT eye sore. It is convenient for anyone. Thank you for reading.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Kathleen L. Brockway
Kathleen.brockway@gmail.com

Dalaker HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joseph Dalaker and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that the movie theatre has very limited select movie showtime with open captions.

My story is that no one should have to jump through hoops or have doubts about whether they'll be able to enjoy a movie the same as everyone else. It is a roll of the dice whether the closed captioning equipment will work in any given movie theatre. Or that the part-time staff are trained in using the closed-captioning equipment. Or that they remembered to keep the equipment charged. Not to mention how stressful it is to have these things to worry about when a group of friends or family spontaneously decides to go to the movies. Because the onus of these worries gets put on the deaf person to figure out. That's not equal access. Just make open captions for all. (Thanks.)

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Joseph Dalaker
jdalaker@verizon.net

Gray HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lawrence Gray and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Gray
graystorm@gmail.com

Grey HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Colin Grey and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Colin Grey
Greyca98@msn.com

N Beckman HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Noah Beckman and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Noah Beckman
Noah.beckman@gmail.com

Nelson HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tammie Nelson and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that my adult daughter is hard of hearing with severe level at some frequencies. I am beginning to lose my hearing, as is my mother who also lives in Cheverly. We always have captions on at home. We would be more likely to go to the movies if there were open captions. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Tammie Nelson
tnelson7@umd.edu

R Beckman HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Reut Beckman and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Reut Beckman
reutxgal@gmail.com

Skeete HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rosemond Skeete and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Rosemond Skeete
Subb0880@gmail.com

TenEyck HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brandi TenEyck and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is My family and I are all deaf. We love to watch a movie. Open caption will benefit us greatly and once provided we'd be a regular visitor at the theatre.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Brandi TenEyck
bcteneyck@gmail.com

Togerson HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: PGCAD PGCAD

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Holly Torgerson and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that I personally find it very difficult to follow a movie without captioning. At home, I always use closed captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Holly Torgerson
dream.lofty.dreams@gmail.com

HB1238.DD Council.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 5, 2022

HB 1238: Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is a statewide public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. As such, **our vision is that people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together.** HB 1238 is another change needed to make that happen.

WHY is this legislation important?

- According to the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, **over 20% of Marylanders, age 12 or older, are deaf or hard of hearing in at least one ear. Almost 13% are deaf or hard of hearing in both ears.**¹
- **Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires places of public accommodations to provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services to ensure effective communication with people with disabilities.** In 2017, the Department of Justice (DOJ) published a final rule that required movie theaters to provide closed movie captioning and audio description by June 2018.
- **Making recreation accessible to everyone is a fundamental practice of inclusion.** The DOJ did not require open captioning. HB 1238 takes another step to ensure more Marylanders can enjoy movies.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires motion picture houses provide fully operational and well-maintained closed captioning technology for each screening of a movie. The movie has to be produced and offered with closed captioning.
- Requires companies that own at least two motion picture houses to provide open captioning for each movie it screens with certain limitations.

It is critical that people who are deaf and hard of hearing have full access to every mode of communication and recreational option available, including movies. For these reasons, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council supports HB 1082.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director: RLondon@md-council.org

¹ <https://odhh.maryland.gov/press-releases/featured-story/over-1-2-million-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-marylanders/>

Alford HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Patricia Alford and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Patricia Alford
pealford122@gmail.com

Bitzel HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Daniel Bitzel and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bitzel
daniel.p.bitzel@gmail.com

DiMeo HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dino DiMeo and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 support Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for all deaf, and hard of hearing moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Dino DiMeo
dino.dimeo1@gmail.com

Merilos HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joyce Merilos and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 support Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for all deaf, and hard of hearing moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Joyce Merilos
jo.merilos@gmail.com

Morley HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Monica Morley and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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.

Please support the Open Captioning Bill as my husband who's deaf and I enjoyed watching the movie with open captioning with a peace of mind.

I support Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for all deaf, and hard of hearing moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Monica Morley
monicagmorley@gmail.com

Murbach HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Teresa Murbach and I am profoundly deaf. I am writing to ask you to support HB 1238 Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland.

As a person who is deaf and enjoys movies better with captioning, I wholeheartedly support this bill.

Currently, closed captions in movie theatres are displayed on a device that the patron places in the cup holder or they must wear special closed-captioning eyeglasses while trying to watch the movie. These devices are cumbersome, difficult to use, often in disrepair, unsanitary, and they regularly malfunction. I get headaches easily and my nose bridge hurts due to captioning eyeglasses being too heavy. Rather than making the movie-going experience enjoyable, they make it much more challenging. Opening captioning is a far better option for many reasons.

- 1) I would like to enjoy captioning movies with my family and friends in a movie theatre.
- 2) Almost 48 MILLION Americans experience some degree of hearing loss and rely on captioning to some extent.
- 3) Open captioning is also a valuable tool for those who have a learning or sensory disability, are non-native speakers, or have other difficulties understanding spoken language.
- 4) Open captioning ensures that millions of Americans have equal access to entertainment opportunities.
- 5) Best of all, movie theatres can offer this service at no cost to themselves or to the consumer. Today's movies are distributed with the option of running open captioning!

Captioning is already widely used, and you probably don't even notice it! For example, have you ever watched television in a restaurant, bar, airport, doctor's office, or the place where you get your car's oil changed? Then you already understand the benefits of captioning.

With so many people like yourself now accustomed to captioning on YouTube videos, TV, and streaming content, this is just the next step.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely, Teresa Murbach

TTmurbach@gmail.com

Petajan HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andy Petajan and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 experienced is that I loved OC movies with Deaf people in DC so it should be more active in MD.

I support Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for all deaf, and hard of hearing moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Andy Petajan
adpetajan@gmail.com

Prickett HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Darlene Prickett and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 story is that I'm a CODA. One of my fondest memories is my mother taking me to see Charlotte's Web in the theater. That was rare because without captions, it wasn't much fun for her. When her local theater offered OC on weekdays, her friends went regularly until the theater got personal caption devices, but not enough for everyone. That social event stopped. Most of the time the devices don't work anyway. I want to go to the theater with my mom any time we want to. OC benefit everyone! Please make this the standard.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Darlene Prickett
Coda3star@gmail.com

Sansonese HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Denise Sansonese and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Denise Sansonese
Bellagal3@gmail.com

Williams HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Martin

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jenna Williams and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 support Open Captioning Bill for the Movie Theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for all deaf, and hard of hearing moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Jenna Williams
jennapoehlmann@gmail.com

Clapp HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kimberly Leigh Clapp and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 story is that more than a decade ago, my father, my brother, and I went to a movie theatre. They only had two captioning devices remaining. So I let my father and brother take them, and I left. I've never been back to see a movie in the theater again. Devices are a hassle and unreliable, and movie theaters are missing out on revenue from the Deaf/HH community. Please pass this law.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Leigh Clapp
leigh.clapp@msd.edu

Eboli HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Eboli and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 story is that I'd love go to the movie theater with my children to watch movie together but no OC at all and that barrier my access.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

John Eboli
johnebolijr@gmail.com

Galsky HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Laura Galsky and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 daughter is deaf I am hearing. We need this for children in the community as well as adults, should be mandatory!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Laura Galsky
laurarogalsky@gmail.com

Garrett HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Justine Garrett and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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.

It's the only way to really share a movie experience with Deaf and Hard of Hearing friends.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Justine Garrett
justinegarrett@gmail.com

Harris HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dolores M. Harris and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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.

Everyone has the right to enjoy going to the movies. Please do not discriminate against hearing impaired. Pass the bill!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Dolores M. Harris
dmharris29@gmail.com

Kurtz HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Anastasia Kurtz and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Kurtz

anastasia.kurtz@gmail.com

M Martin HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michelle Martin and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 work with deaf and hard of hearing adults and children. They would like to be able to go to the theater like their peers to watch a movie.

I myself am loosing my hearing and benefit from closed captions. I would attend these viewing as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Michelle Martin
michellem555@yahoo.com

Unger HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andrew Unger and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Andrew Unger
andy@unger5.com

Yomtov HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Allon Yomtov and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Allon Yomtov

Allonyo31@gmail.com

Zisman HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Roy Fernandes

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marcia Zisman and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County, Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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.

My experience is that I love going to see movies with open captions; however the choices (movie titles and times/day are very limited). Thanks for considering this bill!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Marcia Zisman
mzisman270@aol.com

A Markel HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Allen Markel and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Allen Markel
a4markel@gmail.com

Behun HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Suzi Behun and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Suzi Behun
Suzi@behun.com

Ellis HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tamara Ellis and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Tamara Ellis
tammyjokane@yahoo.com

Fox HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heather Fox and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in St. Mary's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is CC should be the standard.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Heather Fox
heatherlfox@hotmail.com

Hartman HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Fred Hartman and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Fred Hartman
fhartman6@gmail.com

Hlibok HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Charmaine Hlibok and I am Deaf. I live in the state of Maryland.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that I want to be able to attend the movies with my hearing children - just like any other hearing parent do with theirs. Movies are not openly accessible and we are now limited to only seeing movies at certain unpopular times of the day or week because they only offer captioned movies at those times. Please consider passing this bill to improve accessibility for everyone, not just the deaf community! Thank you!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Hlibok
charmainehlibok@gmail.com

McAuley HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joy McAuley and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Joy McAuley
Joymcauley1@gmail.com

Ragusa HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carla Ragusa and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Carla Ragusa
sweetbelairgirl@gmail.com

S Markel HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sean Markel and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Sean Markel
seanmarkel8@gmail.com

Scotton HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sagar Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Teri Scotton and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Teri Scotton
tmscotton@gmail.com

A Saravia HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alejandra Saravia and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Saravia
Alisaravia19@yahoo.com

Abdilah HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelby Abdilah and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is Open captioning offers parity for Deaf and hard of hearing patrons, but it also serves to benefit the hearing audience as well. Captions help close the gap when lines cannot be heard and helps English learners better follow the storyline as well. As we've seen in public spaces like bars and gyms, the addition of captioning is a benefit for everyone, not only the community it was designed for.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah
Shelby.abdilah@gmail.com

Burghardt HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heidi Burghardt and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County..

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 deaf so naturally, open captioning bill is very important to me. Not only that, but I have witnessed my daughter, who is not deaf, developed her reading skills at a very early age. The captions help boost foundational reading skills, such as phonics, word recognition, and fluency. Additionally, studies have shown that hearing loss is much more common among older adults and 91% of adults with hearing loss are aged 50 and older. This could be one of you.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Heidi Burghardt
HABurghardt@gmail.com

Dewing HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Dewing and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I am hearing but my husband is deaf. Just last night, our 13-year-old son wanted to go to the movies with his friends. They wanted to go to a certain theater because they wanted to be able to walk around the nearby shops afterwards or go to Starbucks. Other friends were going to that theater as well. But that theater is infamous for their captioning devices never working properly. We constantly miss half of the movie (or sometimes all of it), while they struggle to get it working. So my husband had to force them to go to a different theater where they have caption glasses which are a little more reliable. Even then, he gets a headache looking at the captions through the glasses but it is the only way to have access to the film.

Open captions do no harm to anyone- they only benefit. And they benefit even people that are not deaf or hard of hearing. They enhance literacy for younger people. They help allow hearing people to catch words or phrases that they may have missed in the movie due to loud noises from special effects and such. The films are already coded with captions, so it doesn't cost the theater anything to just turn them on and have them display on the screen.

Yes, some moviegoers may find it a distraction at first but if the whole state implements it and it becomes the norm, they will get used to it, just like every other hearing person who started living with a deaf person like I did. :)

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dewing
lisa@thedewings.com

G Saravia HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Giovanni Saravia and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is My mother has been hard of hearing her whole life, with her hearing slowly getting worse over time. Open captions allow her to get the same experience as other abled people at movie theaters. Headphones don't work and the caption machines often won't display text sometimes, be behind, or just not work. Open captions enable all dialogue to be shown at the correct times and let my mom have a fun time at a movie without having to deal with frustrating peripherals or missing parts of the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Saravia
Saraviagi01@yahoo.com

J Scotton HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Scotton and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

John Scotton
Jayscotton@gmail.com

S Kothari HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Smita Kothari and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is rarely use the glasses for watching movie and even I have to use double glasses in the theater. Wished to have open captions in movie theater.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Smita Kothari
oceanpeacock2810@gmail.com

Sagar Kothari HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sagar Kothari and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I've used Rear Window Captioning (RWC) device with cup holder several times. I had to sit still without changing my sitting positions. When I changed my sitting position, I had to adjust the RWC arm to fit my view and it made noise. Quite annoying. Other device I have tried was Sony subtitle glasses and they were heavy and it sore my ears and nose. Whenever I changed my sitting position, I had to adjust my lens so that I can view the actors and the captioning in the right place. It's not comfortable at all. With Opened Captioning (OC) I would be able to read the white texts (same as subtitles) at the bottom of the movie screen with ease just like staying home and watch tv with closed-captioning. Lessons learned, I refused to go to movie theater if they only provided either RWC or Sony glasses. If they provide OC, then I will definitely go and enjoy the movie with ease and enjoy the same experience as hearing moviegoers. If you were in my shoes and try out all of those three devices mentioned, you will understand my feelings and choose to go with OC. Please support HB 1238 bill. Thank you.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Sagar Kothari
oceantetra@gmail.com

Salaway HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tracey Salaway and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County..

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is I have a low hearing level and CC will give us an equitable experience to hearing viewers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Tracey Salaway
tracey.salaway@gallaudet.edu

Winick HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Smita Kothari

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Laura Winick and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Laura Winick

laurajwinick@gmail.com

Alpert HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joan Alpert and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is although I am still a person without a hearing aid, my ability to hear is not what it used to be and I know many people who feel they can no longer go to movies or theater's without some adequate hearing assistance... captioning usually being the best format.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Joan Alper
hjalpert@gmail.com

Asofsky HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leah V. Asofsky and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that I support the Open Captioning Bill for Movie Theaters in the state of Maryland. I am hard of hearing. Captioning would ensure that I understand the movie I am watching. It would increase my attendance at movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Leah V. Asofsky
leasofsky@gmail.com

Averett HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karen Averett and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is I don't go to see movies at a movie theatre due to lack of accessibility. Open Captions will give me equal opportunity to watch movies more often.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Karen Averett
klsheffer@gmail.com

Campbell HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marie Ann Campbell and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Marie Campbell
campbellmarieann@gmail.com

daCosta HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kris daCosta and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is My husband and I used to watch movies in theaters that were accommodating deaf patrons, however we were disgusted with the eye devices (i.e. rear view glasses), hand held devices that provides captioning services. We enjoy movies more and find better comfort with movies that are open captioned. I support this bill for myself, my husband, our deaf friends, and the wider community who benefit from English subtitles as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Kris daCosta

Dtp65silkyt10@gmail.com

DeVinney HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Viola DeVinney and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My personal story is Captioned movies make going to the theater a pleasurable experience again. I am unable to discern speech without captioning. The assistive devices available in some theaters are unreliable and uncomfortable to use, often breaking down mid-movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Viola DeVinney
tadnvi@gmail.com

Dommerholt HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jan Dommerholt and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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.

My story is that I have several deaf family members and in 2022, it is time that they can go to the movies just like anyone else and enjoy the show!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Jan Dommerholt
jan.dommerholt@verizon.net

Finkelstein HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Finkelstein and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I have been completely dependent on captioning for at least eight years. I have encountered every problem with the eyeglass and Gooseneck devices that purportedly provide captions for me in movie theaters. I have had the battery die during a movie. I have had the captions appear from the movie in a different theater and not the one I was supposed to see. I have been given glasses for the blind which provide narration of what you see on the screen but of course not the sound track which a hard of hearing person needs. The hard of hearing and deaf Desperately need open captions so that we have what is truly equal access to movies. Please enact this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Lisa Finkelstein
Lisaf2444@gmail.com

Gery HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Miriam Gery and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Miriam Gery
Miriam391@verizon.net

Jacobowitz HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dr. E. Lynn Jacobowitz and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Dr. E. Lynn Jacobowitz
Drlynnjaco.aslstar@gmail.com

Jonas HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Judy Jonas and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that I've been an ASL/English interpreter for many years and recently my hearing has diminished so I now wear hearing aids and frequently turn the captions on, on my television. Open captions are the only acceptable way for people with hearing losses to have accurate and in synch with the movie accessibility. It's not rocket science to provide open captions. Movies are required to have them. Just do it. English language learners and children benefit from the captions so they reach a wider audience than the movie theaters envision. Those of us with hearing losses must have equal access to films. You'll be surprised how many will attend these showings. The county is aging — the baby boomers have hearing losses from all the loud music they heard over their lifetimes. They will show up. Just do it!!!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Judy Jonas
jjonas@verizon.net

Lapine HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kimberly Lapine and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lapine
Klapine6@gmail.com

Leal HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lori Leal and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Lori Leal
lmlwofusma@gmail.com

Lindley HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Lindley and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I am in full support of this bill. I cannot tell you the number of times I've not been able to watch a movie because it wasn't captioned or because the devices that must be used in lieu of open captions do not work. Often the times the theater will voluntarily open caption a movie do not work with our schedules. In addition, some of the movies we actually want to watch, we can't because the theater has chosen not to show captions. We would truly appreciate being able to watch a movie, open captioned, at any time, just like a person who can hear. We look forward to seeing this bill passed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Amy Lindley
amyglindley@gmail.com

Mendelson HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mona Mendelson and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that many deaf and hard of hearing family members who enjoy theater and movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Mona Mendelson
Mona.mendelson@verizon.net

Porter HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Vikki Porter and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Vikki Porter
Porter.vikki.l@gmail.com

Robertson HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Andrew Robertson and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Andrew Robertson
aorleamsman@gmail.com

S Brown HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stephanie Brown and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 story is that my whole family is relying on captioning and learning from it. It is important for most of people to understand movies with captioning and enjoy equal opportunities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Brown
stephbrown2010@gmail.com

Teresa Jackson HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Teresa Jackson and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 1238.

Sincerely,

Teresa Jackson
Taj5603@gmail.com

Vore HB 1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Joyner

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michelle Vore and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captions for each screening of a motion picture. It also will require that motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least certain 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 D/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 personal story is I grew up going to the movie theater every two months with my entire hearing family to watch a blockbuster release. I could never understand a single thing that was spoken but I could imagine. So imagine all the scripts I came up for movies like Terminator 2, Forrest Gump, etc? Yep, my scripts could either be spot on or not! More often than not, I wouldn't enjoy the movies because they were hard to follow. I'd have to tap my hearing mom to interpret bits here and there. As a Deaf adult, I enjoy watching open captioned movies and would never burden my Deaf children with movies that weren't captioned. It's 2022, all movies should be captioned, period.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Michelle Vore
michelley@gmail.com

Maryland Petition Cover Letter.docx-2.pdf

Uploaded by: Vikki Porter

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Since Spring 2019, I have had a petition for open captions at change.org/ocmoviesnow. For Maryland alone, the petition has 680+ signatures to date. This translates to 22 pages of signatures for Maryland so far. There are signatures from all over in the State of Maryland; 135 cities and towns, including unincorporated towns. The full list is attached.

I request a favor report of HB1238.

Sincerely,

Jamie Berke

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Aberdeen | 23. Clarksburg |
| 2. Abingdon | 24. Clarksville |
| 3. Accident | 25. Clinton |
| 4. Annapolis | 26. Cockeyville |
| 5. Arnold | 27. College Park |
| 6. Baltimore | 28. Columbia |
| 7. Bel Air | 29. Crofton |
| 8. Beltsville | 30. Crownsville |
| 9. Berlin | 31. Cumberland |
| 10. Bethesda | 32. Damascus |
| 11. Bladensburg | 33. Dayton |
| 12. Bowie | 34. Delmar |
| 13. Brandywine | 35. Derwood |
| 14. Brooklyn | 36. District Heights |
| 15. Brunswick | 37. Dundalk |
| 16. Burtonsville | 38. Dunkirk |
| 17. Capitol Heights | 39. Easton |
| 18. Cascade | 40. Edgemere |
| 19. Catonsville | 41. Edgewater |
| 20. Chesapeake Beach | 42. Edgewood |
| 21. Chestertown | 43. Eldersburg |
| 22. Chevy Chase | 44. Elkridge |

45. Elkton
46. Ellicot City
47. Essex
48. Federalsburg
49. Finksburg
50. Forest Hill
51. Fort Washington
52. Frederick
53. Friendship
54. Fulton
55. Gaithersburg
56. Germantown
57. Glen Burnie
58. Glenwood
59. Great Mills
60. Greenbelt
61. Hagerstown
62. Halethorpe
63. Hanover
64. Harwood
65. Hollywood
66. Huntingtown
67. Hyattsville
68. Jarrettsville
69. Jefferson
70. Jessup
71. Kensington
72. Kingsville
73. La Plata
74. Lanham
75. Lansdowne
76. Laurel
77. Laytonsville
78. Leonardtown
79. Lexington Park
80. Linthicum Heights
81. Lusby
82. Lutherville-Timonium
83. Maugansville
84. Mechanicsville

85. Middle River
86. Middletown
87. Millersville
88. Mitchellville
89. Montgomery Village
90. Mount Airy
91. New Market
92. North Beach
93. Nottingham
94. Oakland
95. Odenton
96. Olney
97. Owings
98. Owings Mills
99. Parkton
100. Parkville
101. Pasadena
102. Pikesville
103. Potomac
104. Prince Frederick
105. Randallstown
106. Reisterstown
107. Riverdale
108. Rockville
109. Rocky Ridge
110. Rosedale
111. Salisbury
112. Severn
113. Severna Park
114. Shady Side
115. Silver Spring
116. Smithsburg
117. Sparrows Point
118. Suitland
119. Sykesville
120. Takoma Park
121. Taneytown
122. Temple Hills
123. Thurmont
124. Timonium

- 125. Towson
- 126. Union Bridge
- 127. University Park
- 128. Upper Marlboro
- 129. Waldorf
- 130. Walkersville

- 131. West River
- 132. Westminster
- 133. White Plains
- 134. Windsor Mill
- 135. Woodsboro

State Total		685			
Name	City	State	Postal Coc	Country	Signed On
Mee L	Aberdeen	MD	21001	US	7/6/2019
K M	Abingdon	MD	21009	US	3/16/2022
Keith D	Abingdon	MD	21009	US	5/15/2019
Marla K	Abingdon	MD	21009	US	4/20/2019
Amanda L	Accident	MD	21520	US	7/9/2021
Rebecca G	Annapolis	MD	21401	US	3/3/2022
Stephan W	Annapolis	MD	21409	US	9/24/2021
Shelby W	Annapolis	MD	21403	US	9/22/2021
Jacob b	Annapolis	MD	21409	US	4/18/2021
Diane R	Annapolis	MD	21409	US	7/10/2019
Jacob L	Annapolis	MD	21403	US	7/9/2019
Randy L	Annapolis	MD	21403	US	7/9/2019
Terry C	Annapolis	MD	21403	US	7/9/2019
Marcie P	Annapolis	MD	21037	US	4/13/2019
P K	Annapolis JCT	MD	20701	US	8/18/2021
C F	Arnold	MD	21012	US	10/1/2019
Janessa S	Baltimore	MD	21202	US	3/6/2022
Caitlin L	Baltimore	MD	21202	US	3/6/2022
Tabitha M	Baltimore	MD	21229	US	3/6/2022
Maria N	Baltimore	MD	21217	US	3/6/2022
John L	Baltimore	MD	21231	US	12/20/2021
Valentia L	Baltimore	MD	21206	US	12/7/2021
Derrell J	Baltimore	MD	22204	US	11/30/2021
Lynn W	Baltimore	MD	21211	US	10/22/2021
Rebekka S	Baltimore	MD	21215	US	9/26/2021
Alize K	Baltimore	MD	21224	US	9/20/2021
Matthew B	Baltimore	MD	21230	US	9/9/2021
Trevor M	Baltimore	MD	21218	US	8/17/2021
Kendra W	Baltimore	MD	21224	US	7/7/2021

Victoria H	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	7/2/2021
Crystal S	Baltimore	MD	21201 US	6/29/2021
Lee M	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	6/29/2021
Dana K	Baltimore	MD	21217 US	6/20/2021
Paula G	Baltimore	MD	21201 US	6/7/2021
Shanell O	Baltimore	MD	21216 US	6/3/2021
A S	Baltimore	MD	21206 US	5/27/2021
michael g	Baltimore	MD	21202 US	5/19/2021
Denise S	Baltimore	MD	21210 US	5/18/2021
Eddy M	Baltimore	MD	21215 US	5/15/2021
Shannon C	Baltimore	MD	21201 US	5/2/2021
Ian E	Baltimore	MD	21224 US	4/19/2021
Eli G	Baltimore	MD	21239 US	4/7/2021
Rose C	Baltimore	MD	21211 US	7/19/2020
Camille V	Baltimore	MD	21206 US	6/5/2020
Anya D	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	6/5/2020
Jack B	Baltimore	MD	21231 US	6/5/2020
Vento O	Baltimore	MD	21133 US	4/17/2020
Jesse E	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	4/17/2020
Leslie P	Baltimore	MD	21209 US	2/25/2020
Leia I	Baltimore	MD	21212 US	2/15/2020
Kathleen M	Baltimore	MD	21229 US	2/3/2020
Samuel B	Baltimore	MD	21215 US	1/30/2020
Amy B	Baltimore	MD	21230 US	1/30/2020
Sam P	Baltimore	MD	21206 US	1/28/2020
Jesse H	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	1/23/2020
Matt R	Baltimore	MD	21239 US	1/22/2020
Kaitlyn S	Baltimore	MD	21230 US	1/21/2020
Deanna T	Baltimore	MD	21214 US	1/17/2020
JoAnn E	Baltimore	MD	21214 US	1/16/2020
Janeal S	Baltimore	MD	21224 US	1/9/2020
lisa y	Baltimore	MD	21208 US	11/15/2019

Morgan H	Baltimore	MD	20851 US	10/16/2019
Lauren P	Baltimore	MD	21252 US	9/25/2019
Rachel T	Baltimore	MD	21209 US	8/6/2019
Martha G	Baltimore	MD	21215 US	8/6/2019
endiya m	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	8/5/2019
Emory B	Baltimore	MD	21233 US	8/4/2019
Amber M	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	8/2/2019
Samantha D	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	8/1/2019
Eddie F	Baltimore	MD	21215 US	7/30/2019
Faruk Y	Baltimore	MD	21218 US	7/17/2019
Anna R	Baltimore	MD	21225 US	7/13/2019
Tokara T	Baltimore	MD	21223 US	7/11/2019
Jordan H	Baltimore	MD	21201 US	7/10/2019
Elizabeth T	Baltimore	MD	21214 US	7/10/2019
rhonda d	baltimore	MD	21234 US	7/6/2019
yakov s	Baltimore	MD	21210 US	7/3/2019
Jocelyn C	Baltimore	MD	21133 US	7/2/2019
Dawon G	Baltimore	MD	21201 US	7/2/2019
Drew H	Baltimore	MD	21206 US	7/2/2019
Gregg R	Baltimore	MD	21252 US	7/2/2019
Tanya C	Baltimore	MD	21207 US	6/29/2019
Gary S	Baltimore	MD	21215 US	6/29/2019
Sarah P	Baltimore	MD	21204 US	5/28/2019
Carla M	Baltimore	MD	21230 US	5/27/2019
Mark E	Baltimore	MD	21211 US	5/1/2019
Mary H	Baltimore	MD	21201 US	4/29/2019
Jeffrey B	Baltimore	MD	21230 US	4/28/2019
Jennifer R	Baltimore	MD	21224 US	4/20/2019
billy f	Baltimore	MD	21203 US	4/13/2019
Pat N	Baltimore	MD	21221 US	4/12/2019
Tamara H	Bel Air	MD	21015 US	11/7/2021
Genesis M	Bel Air	MD	21014 US	12/17/2019

Linbny C	Beltsville	MD	20705 US	6/5/2020
Roger A	Beltsville	MD	20705 US	6/28/2019
riley n	Berlin	MD	21811 US	7/2/2019
jim c	Berlin	MD	21811 US	4/17/2019
Tess W	Bethesda	MD	20817 US	7/26/2021
Sofia S	Bethesda	MD	20816 US	7/16/2021
Amy R	Bethesda	MD	20814 US	5/13/2021
Mario H	Bethesda	MD	201810 US	2/28/2020
Mark B	Bethesda	MD	20817 US	11/16/2019
erin s	Bethesda	MD	20814 US	9/25/2019
Patricia L	Bethesda	MD	20814 US	9/23/2019
Kathleen S	Bethesda	MD	20817 US	9/23/2019
Ann R	Bethesda	MD	20814 US	6/29/2019
Gary T	Bethesda	MD	20817 US	4/11/2019
NATNAIL T	Bethesdta	MD	20814 US	2/26/2020
Shanta B	Bladensburg	MD	20710 US	7/19/2020
kelley m	Bowie	MD	20715 US	3/3/2022
Kathleen B	Bowie	MD	20715 US	1/21/2020
Justin C	Bowie	MD	22655 US	1/21/2020
Patrick R	Bowie	MD	20715 US	1/18/2020
Jennifer D	Bowie	MD	20715 US	1/3/2020
Sam E	Bowie	MD	20715 US	11/13/2019
Ann D	Bowie	MD	20721 US	10/30/2019
Lois B	Bowie	MD	20721 US	10/30/2019
Penny N	Bowie	MD	20716 US	10/1/2019
Kathy M	Bowie	MD	20715 US	9/30/2019
Diane F	Bowie	MD	20721 US	9/22/2019
Laurie I	Bowie	MD	20720 US	9/18/2019
Darlene P	Bowie	MD	20715 US	8/8/2019
Laura W	Bowie	MD	20715 US	7/1/2019
Carolyn P	Bowie	MD	20720 US	7/1/2019
Sarah W	Bowie	MD	20784 US	6/29/2019

Lisa M	Bowie	MD	20715 US	5/3/2019
Kathy M	Bowie	MD	20720 US	4/27/2019
Evelien J	Bowie	MD	20715 US	4/11/2019
joseph o	boyds	MD	20841 US	7/31/2019
Cari V	Brandywine	MD	20613 US	5/3/2019
Bobbi p	Brooklyn	MD	21225 US	3/11/2020
Vivian P	Brooklyn	MD	21225 US	7/31/2019
Monica M	Brunswick	MD	21716 US	3/3/2022
Kaela L	Brunswick	MD	21716 US	8/17/2021
Estina B	Burtonsville	MD	20707 US	6/1/2021
Zhen C	Capitol Heights	MD	20743 US	7/3/2019
William H	Capitol Heights	MD	20743 US	5/27/2019
Kecia L	Capitol Heights	MD	20743 US	4/28/2019
Celeste S	Cascade	MD	21719 US	4/24/2019
Juanita B	Catonsville	MD	21228 US	10/1/2021
James M	Catonsville	MD	21228 US	8/11/2021
Sara A	Catonsville	MD	21228 US	12/18/2019
Wes Y	Catonsville	MD	21228 US	8/8/2019
Cathy J	Catonsville	MD	21228 US	6/30/2019
Michelle S	Chesapeake Beach	MD	20732 US	3/3/2022
Kathleen G	Chestertown	MD	21620 US	1/19/2020
Elizabeth J	Chevy Chase	MD	20815 US	2/21/2022
A A	Chevy Chase	MD	20815 US	5/9/2019
Shwetha V	Clarksburg	MD	20871 US	3/8/2022
Mary H	Clarksburg	MD	20871 US	3/3/2022
Julian B	Clarksburg	MD	20871 US	7/2/2019
Stephen T	Clarksville	MD	21029 US	3/3/2022
Peggy T	Clarksville	MD	21029 US	3/3/2022
Stephen H	Clarksville	MD	21029 US	7/26/2019
Brian S	Clinton	MD	20735 US	3/9/2022
Cory W	Clinton	MD	20735 US	4/1/2021
Tori M	Cockeysville	MD	21030 US	8/8/2019

Becca M	Cockeysville	MD	21030 US	8/8/2019
Naomi F	College Park	MD	20742 US	11/1/2021
Natasha S	College Park	MD	20740 US	6/5/2020
Susan S	college park	MD	20740 US	2/15/2020
Bailey S	College Park	MD	20740 US	10/17/2019
Diana J	College Park	MD	20740 US	7/2/2019
Betty C	College Park	MD	20740 US	7/1/2019
Becky H	Columbia	MD	21044 US	3/3/2022
Donald G	Columbia	MD	21044 US	3/3/2022
Farida A	Columbia	MD	21044 US	2/21/2022
jennifer n	Columbia	MD	21044 US	9/23/2021
Rikki D	Columbia	MD	21045 US	9/8/2021
Dan T	Columbia	MD	21044 US	5/5/2021
Shantel A	Columbia	MD	21045 US	6/5/2020
Sofia R	Columbia	MD	20588 US	2/25/2020
Jamie K	Columbia	MD	21046 US	1/22/2020
Ebony M	Columbia	MD	21045 US	1/21/2020
Moe K	Columbia	MD	21045 US	9/24/2019
Robert L	Columbia	MD	21045 US	9/19/2019
A B	Columbia	MD	21045 US	9/4/2019
Joanna C	Columbia	MD	21045 US	8/11/2019
Heidi B	Columbia	MD	21045 US	8/5/2019
james b	Columbia	MD	21044 US	7/7/2019
Carrie N	Columbia	MD	21046 US	7/6/2019
Brenda K	Columbia	MD	21044 US	7/2/2019
Mitchell T	Columbia	MD	21045 US	7/2/2019
Susan G	Columbia	MD	21044 US	7/1/2019
William S	Columbia	MD	21044 US	7/1/2019
Michelle G	Columbia	MD	21045 US	7/1/2019
Heidi G	Columbia	MD	21046 US	6/29/2019
Brianne B	Columbia	MD	21045 US	6/27/2019
Yvonne D	Columbia	MD	21045 US	6/18/2019

Debbie F	Columbia	MD	21045 US	5/6/2019
Kathi S	Columbia	MD	21045 US	4/28/2019
Alma R	Columbia	MD	21044 US	4/27/2019
David F	Columbia	MD	21044 US	4/21/2019
Maryliz P	Columbia	MD	21045 US	4/17/2019
Lisa C	Columbia	MD	21045 US	4/14/2019
Mary W	Columbia	MD	21044 US	4/12/2019
Marsha K	Columbia	MD	21045 US	4/12/2019
Stephanie E	Crofton	MD	21114 US	3/7/2022
Kevin T	Crofton	MD	21114 US	2/22/2022
Clara L	Crofton	MD	21114 US	9/24/2019
Megan P	Crofton	MD	21114 US	7/10/2019
Randi B	Crownsville	MD	21032 US	2/25/2020
ralphie b	Cumberland	MD	21502 US	7/29/2021
Shelly T	Damascus	MD	20872 US	6/5/2020
Jennifer F	Damascus	MD	20872 US	2/25/2020
Nicole G	Dayton	MD	21036 US	7/16/2019
Kaylee D	Delmar	MD	21875 US	7/12/2021
Melissa H	Derwood	MD	20855 US	7/12/2019
Darynn W	District Heights	MD	20747 US	12/3/2021
Keira M	District Heights	MD	20747 US	9/23/2021
Fatima M	District Heights	MD	20747 US	6/5/2020
Dyalverline S	District Heights	MD	20747 US	3/11/2020
Joseph P	District Heights	MD	20747 US	7/1/2019
Khera C	District Heights	MD	20747 US	4/28/2019
Lee W	Dundalk	MD	21222 US	12/12/2021
Sarah G	Dundalk	MD	21222 US	1/9/2020
Melinda S	Dundalk	MD	21222 US	7/1/2019
Kassie I	Dundalk	MD	21222 US	4/30/2019
Matt T	Dunkirk	MD	20754 US	3/3/2022
Matthew S	Dunkirk	MD	20754 US	3/3/2022
Maddy M	Easton	MD	21601 US	6/29/2019

Stephanie M	Edgemere	MD	21219 US	4/13/2019
Angel R	Edgewater	MD	21037 US	4/18/2021
Dawn P	Edgewater	MD	21037 US	2/26/2020
Ronald W	Edgewater	MD	21037 US	2/25/2020
Lauson C	Edgewater	MD	21037 US	4/26/2019
Brian S	Edgewood	MD	21040 US	12/16/2019
Tovah A	Edgewood	MD	21040 US	6/27/2019
Rebecca P	Eldersburg	MD	21784 US	3/3/2022
Kelly T	Eldersburg	MD	21784 US	7/2/2019
Harry M	Eldersburg	MD	21784 US	7/2/2019
Charles G	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	3/3/2022
David Y	ELKRIDGE	MD	21075 US	9/6/2021
Maisy H	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	7/5/2021
Emily A	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	6/21/2021
Angel C	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	5/7/2021
Christian S	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	6/5/2020
kiya h	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	6/5/2020
Maureen P	Elkridge	MD	21702 US	2/25/2020
Wendy H	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	2/10/2020
Chanai B	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	1/22/2020
Travis T	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	1/21/2020
Douron B	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	1/16/2020
Elizabeth J	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	1/14/2020
Alexandra C	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	1/11/2020
tony b	Elkridge	MD	21075 US	5/17/2019
Hamza A	Elkton	MD	21921 US	4/17/2020
Kelly K	Elkton	MD	21921 US	10/15/2019
Carolyn T	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/7/2022
Ashley H	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	3/7/2022
Apurva V	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/7/2022
John T	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/7/2022
Darlene G	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/6/2022

Kal V	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/3/2022
Ahmed K	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/3/2022
Elke P	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	3/3/2022
Angela B	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	11/29/2021
Bindu M	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	8/18/2021
Bess A	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	6/5/2020
Jeramiah J	Ellicott City	MD	21043 US	6/5/2020
Loretta G	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	2/3/2020
Richard M	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	12/22/2019
Alec B	Ellicott City	MD	21075 US	7/6/2019
Randy M	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	7/5/2019
Patricia P	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	6/29/2019
Barbara W	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	6/28/2019
Brenda K	Ellicott City	MD	21042 US	4/18/2019
Julea T	Essex	MD	21221 US	10/25/2019
I J	Essex	MD	21221 US	6/28/2019
Shelly H	Essex	MD	21221 US	4/13/2019
Theresa B	Federalsburg	MD	21632 US	8/8/2019
Michael P	Finksburg	MD	21048 US	3/3/2022
Julia R	Forest Hill	MD	21050 US	2/8/2020
Nancy T	Forest Hill	MD	21050 US	4/12/2019
Jeannelys s	Fort Washingto	MD	20744 US	12/5/2021
Gloria W	fort washington	MD	20744 US	5/26/2021
Cierra B	Fort Washingto	MD	20744 US	6/5/2020
P S	Fort Washingto	MD	20744 US	9/27/2019
Tonya S	Fort Washingto	MD	20744 US	9/24/2019
Karen M	Fort Washingto	MD	20744 US	8/5/2019
Ruth A	Frederick	MD	21701 US	3/7/2022
Denise S	Frederick	MD	21703 US	3/3/2022
Isabella M	Frederick	MD	21701 US	3/3/2022
Deborah E	Frederick	MD	21703 US	3/3/2022
Trudy S	Frederick	MD	21704 US	3/3/2022

Jennifer P	Frederick	MD	21703 US	3/3/2022
Theresa P	Frederick	MD	21701 US	3/3/2022
Albert B	Frederick	MD	21703 US	10/22/2021
Cindy R	Frederick	MD	21703 US	10/22/2021
Karin P	Frederick	MD	21703 US	10/13/2021
Sharon C	Frederick	MD	21701 US	9/7/2021
PJ A	Frederick	MD	21703 US	5/19/2021
Megan P	Frederick	MD	21703 US	6/5/2020
Susana W	Frederick	MD	21704 US	6/5/2020
Ariel C	Frederick	MD	21701 US	4/17/2020
Jerry M	Frederick	MD	21704 US	3/16/2020
Amie L	Frederick	MD	21702 US	3/15/2020
Wilfredo A	Frederick	MD	21702 US	2/27/2020
Lori B	Frederick	MD	21703 US	2/27/2020
sierra h	Frederick	MD	21704 US	2/27/2020
Dolly G	Frederick	MD	21701 US	2/25/2020
Jason W	Frederick	MD	78652 US	2/25/2020
Lisa P	Frederick	MD	21701 US	2/8/2020
Jen S	Frederick	MD	21701 US	1/27/2020
Lauren L	Frederick	MD	21701 US	1/21/2020
Katie C	Frederick	MD	21703 US	1/19/2020
John G	Frederick	MD	21703 US	1/18/2020
Lynn J	Frederick	MD	21701 US	12/21/2019
Maris F	Frederick	MD	21703 US	11/16/2019
Malik H	Frederick	MD	21702 US	10/26/2019
Ashley O	Frederick	MD	21704 US	10/3/2019
Josiah A	Frederick	MD	21704 US	10/3/2019
Jennifer B	Frederick	MD	21704 US	8/8/2019
Michele W	Frederick	MD	21703 US	8/6/2019
Dylan J	Frederick	MD	21702 US	7/26/2019
Kristin R	Frederick	MD	21704 US	7/14/2019
Nat B	Frederick	MD	21701 US	7/10/2019

Tre S	Frederick	MD	21702 US	7/1/2019
Melissa B	Frederick	MD	21702 US	6/27/2019
Lori T	Frederick	MD	21701 US	5/29/2019
Suzanne B	Frederick	MD	21701 US	5/28/2019
Patty W	Frederick	MD	21701 US	5/27/2019
Wendell P	Frederick	MD	21701 US	5/27/2019
Lana D	Frederick	MD	21701 US	5/27/2019
Tiffany R	Frederick	MD	21701 US	5/27/2019
Carla R	Frederick	MD	21703 US	5/27/2019
Kristina P	Frederick	MD	21703 US	4/23/2019
Roxane B	Frederick	MD	21701 US	4/19/2019
Nathan G	Frederick	MD	21703 US	4/14/2019
Sean G	Friendship	MD	20758 US	1/18/2020
Aurora S	Fulton	MD	20759 US	1/11/2022
Elisa R	Gaithersburg	MD	20878 US	1/14/2022
Leticia D	Gaithersburg	MD	20877 US	11/12/2021
matt m	Gaithersburg	MD	20879 US	11/5/2021
MEGAN T	GAITHERSBURG	MD	20879 US	6/19/2021
Emilia H	Gaithersburg	MD	20878 US	6/5/2020
Oliver M	Gaithersburg	MD	20877 US	4/17/2020
David B	Gaithersburg	MD	20877 US	1/20/2020
Alana L	Gaithersburg	MD	20878 US	6/29/2019
Anju K	Gaithersburg	MD	20878 US	5/27/2019
Elaine E	Gaithersburg	MD	20886 US	4/10/2019
Suchitra S	gemantown	MD	20874 US	3/8/2022
Charmaine M	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/8/2022
JENNIFER B	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/7/2022
Lisa D	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/6/2022
Smita K	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/6/2022
Zeshan S	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/6/2022
Mary O	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/3/2022
Kris d	Germantown	MD	20874 US	3/3/2022

Sagar K	Germantown	MD	20874 US	1/10/2022
minar k	Germantown	MD	20874 US	6/3/2021
Michael O	Germantown	MD	20874 US	6/1/2021
Ivelisse G	Germantown	MD	20876 US	3/20/2021
briana m	Germantown	MD	20874 US	6/5/2020
Jayla D	Germantown	MD	20874 US	6/5/2020
Robert K	Germantown	MD	20874 US	9/23/2019
Mary B	Germantown	MD	20874 US	7/31/2019
Anan H	Germantown	MD	20874 US	7/14/2019
Jessica P	Germantown	MD	20874 US	7/10/2019
John E	Germantown	MD	20874 US	4/23/2019
Samuel H	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	10/22/2021
Purshaad W	Glen burnie	MD	21061 US	9/29/2021
Brad S	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	4/14/2021
Margaret M	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	4/14/2021
michael r	Glen Burnie	MD	21060 US	2/15/2020
Laura M	Glen Burnie	MD	21060 US	8/5/2019
Eric M	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	8/5/2019
Lucy R	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	7/28/2019
Casey J	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	7/5/2019
Phoebe R	Glen Burnie	MD	21061 US	5/6/2019
matthew r	Glenwood	MD	21738 US	4/15/2019
Louis F	Great Mills	MD	20634 US	11/25/2019
Luis F	Greenbelt	MD	20770 US	2/22/2022
Candace C	Greenbelt	MD	20770 US	1/21/2020
Rachel P	Greenbelt	MD	20770 US	1/21/2020
Delali N	Greenbelt	MD	20770 US	5/2/2019
Abbey R	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	3/3/2022
C M	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	10/24/2021
J E	hagerstown	MD	21742 US	2/25/2020
Natascha M	Hagerstown	MD	21742 US	1/19/2020
Kelli G	Hagerstown	MD	21742 US	8/15/2019

Paula M	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	7/3/2019
Jennifer M	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	5/28/2019
Samantha S	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	5/27/2019
Timothy S	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	5/27/2019
Claudine W	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	5/27/2019
Jarred K	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	5/27/2019
Alexis S	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	5/27/2019
Jacqueline S	Hagerstown	MD	21742 US	5/27/2019
Laura W	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	4/29/2019
Nicole Z	Hagerstown	MD	21742 US	4/23/2019
Jacqueline S	Hagerstown	MD	21742 US	4/21/2019
Mary R	Hagerstown	MD	21740 US	4/19/2019
Kaitlyn S	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	4/17/2020
Courtney S	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	1/17/2020
Samuel S	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	9/14/2019
Ashley E	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	7/31/2019
Beth W	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	7/6/2019
Kieren G	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	7/3/2019
Finn K	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	6/30/2019
Connie G	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	6/30/2019
Jennifer B	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	4/20/2019
Katie E	Halethorpe	MD	21227 US	4/19/2019
Willy C	Hanover	MD	21076 US	3/4/2022
Laura D	Hanover	MD	21076 US	4/15/2019
Karen M	Harwood	MD	20776 US	3/3/2022
Susan S	Harwood	MD	20776 US	10/10/2021
kaelin e	hollywood	MD	20636 US	1/22/2020
Natika W	Huntingtown	MD	20639 US	3/6/2022
Sherrie T	Huntingtown	MD	20639 US	3/3/2022
Claire H	Huntingtown	MD	20639 US	3/3/2022
Isabel C	Huntingtown	MD	20639 US	3/12/2020
Allen M	Hyattsville	MD	20781 US	3/6/2022

Clifton L	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	3/5/2022
Eduardo P	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	3/3/2022
Kyrstin K	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	7/19/2021
Kimani R	Hyattsville	MD	20781 US	6/19/2021
Emmery L	Hyattsville	MD	20781 US	4/1/2021
Aigne P	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	6/5/2020
Wendy H	Hyattsville	MD	20783 US	1/24/2020
Wegahta A	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	1/21/2020
Marian L	Hyattsville	MD	20781 US	1/17/2020
Melissa M	Hyattsville	MD	20781 US	10/13/2019
B H	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	9/24/2019
rachel d	Hyattsville	MD	20787 US	7/27/2019
Miya B	Hyattsville	MD	20781 US	7/16/2019
rhyshem b	Hyattsville	MD	20785 US	7/14/2019
Janiece O	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	7/4/2019
Melody P	Hyattsville	MD	20782 US	4/29/2019
dion w	Hyattsville	MD	20785 US	4/28/2019
Rhonda H	Jarrettsville	MD	21084 US	3/4/2022
Barbara O	Jefferson	MD	21755 US	3/12/2022
Maria R	Jefferson	MD	21755 US	2/25/2020
Jane S	Jefferson	MD	21755 US	5/28/2019
Teri S	Jessup	MD	20794 US	3/6/2022
Brian S	Jessup	MD	20794 US	1/10/2022
Kirsten P	Jessup	MD	20794 US	2/26/2020
Viki B	Kensington	MD	20895 US	2/21/2022
Mindy P	Kensington	MD	20895 US	1/9/2020
Creed K	Kensington	MD	20895 US	7/2/2019
Dominic V	Kensington	MD	20895 US	7/1/2019
Charmaine L	Kensington	MD	20895 US	4/13/2019
George D	Kingsville	MD	21087 US	4/28/2019
Alessa K	La Plata	MD	20646 US	12/12/2021
Sally F	Lanham	MD	20706 US	4/5/2021

Eric S	Lanham	MD	20706 US	2/25/2020
Carol M	Lanham	MD	20706 US	2/8/2020
Ethan E	Lanham	MD	20706 US	7/1/2019
Rob s	lansdowne	MD	21227 US	7/17/2019
Shay T	Laurel	MD	20724 US	3/3/2022
Karen O	Laurel	MD	20723 US	3/3/2022
Michael K	Laurel	MD	20723 US	1/15/2022
Cherie P	Laurel	MD	20707 US	1/11/2022
Phyllis K	Laurel	MD	20723 US	1/11/2022
Ester M	Laurel	MD	20723 US	1/10/2022
Sara M	Laurel	MD	20723 US	1/10/2022
Jillian L	Laurel	MD	20759 US	1/10/2022
Calvin C	Laurel	MD	20723 US	11/1/2021
Carlene T	Laurel	MD	20707 US	10/22/2021
Brandon M	Laurel	MD	20723 US	7/17/2021
Henry R	Laurel	MD	20707 US	3/1/2021
Haley B	Laurel	MD	20707 US	7/21/2020
Marlon C	Laurel	MD	20723 US	6/5/2020
Diana M	Laurel	MD	20708 US	2/15/2020
Afua A	Laurel	MD	20723 US	12/16/2019
Ashly B	Laurel	MD	20723 US	12/16/2019
Beverly B	Laurel	MD	20707 US	8/29/2019
Tracey J	Laurel	MD	20707 US	8/8/2019
David R	Laurel	MD	20723 US	8/8/2019
Laura Q	Laurel	MD	20723 US	6/29/2019
Jackie M	Laurel	MD	20723 US	6/28/2019
Adrian K	Laytonsville	MD	20886 US	11/4/2021
Kara R	Leonardtwn	MD	US	5/5/2019
Christian G	Lexington Park	MD	20653 US	7/2/2021
Barbara K	Linthicum Heigh	MD	21090 US	1/17/2022
Tracy F	Lusby	MD	20657 US	1/7/2020
Khara S	Lutherville Timc	MD	21093 US	1/22/2020

Dom D	Lutherville-Timc	MD	21093 US	7/20/2019
BARRY J	maugansville	MD	21767 US	6/1/2019
Nicole C	Mechanicsville	MD	20659 US	11/1/2021
Tyler M	Middle River	MD	21220 US	6/6/2021
Gregory S	Middle River	MD	21220 US	7/13/2019
Barbara B	MIDDLE RIVER	MD	21220 US	7/2/2019
Julia L	Middle River	MD	21220 US	4/13/2019
Katharine E	Middletown	MD	21769 US	6/5/2020
Susan H	Middletown	MD	21769 US	7/30/2019
Barbara M	Millersville	MD	21108 US	6/25/2021
Lexy S	Millersville	MD	21108 US	2/2/2020
Kaya J	Millersville	MD	21108 US	8/1/2019
Kathleen J	Millersville	MD	21108 US	8/1/2019
Joseph F	Millersville	MD	21108 US	7/2/2019
Susan W	Mitchellville	MD	20721 US	10/25/2019
Lorraine R	Mitchellville	MD	20721 US	9/22/2019
Daniel M	Montgomery Vi	MD	20886 US	8/23/2021
James M	Montgomery Vi	MD	20886 US	1/26/2020
Lindsey A	Mount Airy	MD	21771 US	5/28/2019
Roy F	New Market	MD	21774 US	6/3/2021
Sherry F	New Market	MD	21774 US	6/3/2021
Jo Ann Z	New Market	MD	21774 US	2/1/2020
Paul C	New Market	MD	21774 US	10/19/2019
Amy P	New Market	MD	21774 US	7/6/2019
Dave A	New Market	MD	21701 US	4/17/2019
Kaitlin K	North beach	MD	20714 US	11/5/2021
Yoseph W	Nottingham	MD	21236 US	9/21/2021
Ginger R	Nottingham	MD	21236 US	4/13/2019
Bryan W	Oakland	MD	21550 US	3/31/2021
Erika E	Oakland	MD	21550 US	10/8/2019
Kai G	Odenton	MD	21113 US	5/15/2021
Steven C	Odenton	MD	21113 US	2/25/2020

Tim K	Odenton	MD	21113 US	1/16/2020
Antines D	Odenton	MD	21114 US	1/16/2020
brooklyn s	Odenton	MD	21113 US	6/30/2019
Patty S	Olney	MD	20032 US	3/3/2022
Susan G	Olney	MD	20832 US	2/21/2022
Daniel C	Olney	MD	20832 US	6/7/2021
Anna G	Olney	MD	20832 US	2/26/2020
Caitlin C	Olney	MD	20832 US	2/25/2020
Ju K	Olney	MD	20832 US	1/21/2020
Deborah D	Olney	MD	20832 US	9/24/2019
Andrea P	Olney	MD	20832 US	6/28/2019
Kelly H	Owings	MD	20736 US	3/3/2022
Cameron C	Owings	MD	20736 US	12/31/2019
George K	Owings Mills	MD	21117 US	1/18/2022
Petrice L	Owings Mills	MD	21117 US	6/29/2019
Leslie W	Parkton	MD	21120 US	3/22/2022
Luisa R	Parkton	MD	21120 US	1/21/2020
Bianca C	Parkville	MD	21234 US	2/25/2020
Lora I	Parkville	MD	21234 US	11/15/2019
Adrienne G	Parkville	MD	21234-491US	10/25/2019
Amber R	Parkville	MD	21234 US	7/11/2019
Femi K	Parkville	MD	21234 US	7/2/2019
Emily K	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	1/11/2022
Erin M	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	8/29/2021
alyssa h	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	6/5/2020
Bre B	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	2/3/2020
Elizabeth M	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	11/25/2019
Laurie M	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	7/9/2019
Tamara D	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	7/1/2019
Darlene K	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	6/27/2019
Chelsea A	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	4/30/2019
Sarah A	Pasadena	MD	21122 US	4/15/2019

Avrom S	Pikesville	MD	21208 US	1/10/2022
Claire T	Pikesville	MD	21208 US	9/23/2021
Rebecca K	Pikesville	MD	21208 US	1/31/2020
Summer B	Pikesville	MD	21208 US	10/16/2019
George H	Pikesville	MD	21208 US	7/20/2019
John Y	Potomac	MD	20854 US	5/18/2021
Keshav L	Potomac	MD	20878 US	4/27/2021
Crystal L	Potomac	MD	20854 US	12/18/2019
Ana G	Potomac	MD	20854 US	10/25/2019
Charles C	Potomac	MD	20854 US	9/23/2019
Fiona S	Potomac	MD	20817 US	7/27/2019
Maury B	Potomac	MD	20854 US	7/4/2019
Lana S	Potomac	MD	20854 US	7/1/2019
Eric T	Prince Frederick	MD	20678 US	5/18/2021
Cindy M	Prince Frederick	MD	20678 US	2/13/2020
Jock W	Randallstown	MD	21133 US	5/20/2021
Jonica K	Randallstown	MD	21133 US	7/2/2019
Nancy B	Reisterstown	MD	21136 US	3/3/2022
Alyssa f	Reisterstown	MD	21136 US	7/19/2020
Sydney D	Reisterstown	MD	21136 US	6/5/2020
Megan D	Reisterstown	MD	21136 US	6/29/2019
SANDEI F	Riverdale	MD	20737 US	10/14/2021
Caitlin S	Riverdale	MD	20737 US	4/27/2019
Neerja V	Rockville	MD	20850 US	3/3/2022
Joanne M	Rockville	MD	20850 US	1/11/2022
Thomas M	Rockville	MD	20851 US	10/7/2021
Christine B	Rockville	MD	20853 US	9/1/2021
David R	Rockville	MD	20850 US	6/3/2021
Kathryn S	Rockville	MD	20850 US	5/25/2021
Adrian Q	Rockville	MD	20851 US	6/5/2020
Amy L	Rockville	MD	20852 US	1/26/2020
Kobe B	Rockville	MD	20850 US	1/22/2020

rachel i	Rockville	MD	20852 US	12/16/2019
Naama T	Rockville	MD	20852 US	9/24/2019
Ana M	Rockville	MD	20852 US	9/24/2019
Sacha K	Rockville	MD	20852 US	8/28/2019
Josiah O	Rockville	MD	20852 US	8/5/2019
Adel A	Rockville	MD	20852 US	8/1/2019
Mark F	Rockville	MD	20852 US	7/2/2019
Matt M	Rockville	MD	20852 US	7/1/2019
sai b	Rockville	MD	20852 US	5/3/2019
Nicole C	Rocky Ridge	MD	21778 US	7/6/2019
Temi A	Rosedale	MD	21237 US	6/5/2020
Beatriz H	Salisbury	MD	21801 US	2/21/2022
Shirley P	Salisbury	MD	21804 US	7/19/2021
Stephanie H	Salisbury	MD	21801 US	6/6/2021
Juliet W	Salisbury	MD	21804 US	8/16/2019
joana w	Salisbury	MD	21801 US	5/28/2019
David C	Severn	MD	21144 US	1/11/2022
Joe S	Severn	MD	21144 US	1/10/2022
Jason M	Severn	MD	21144 US	3/6/2020
Lanika R	Severn	MD	21144 US	11/26/2019
Viktoriya P	Severn	MD	21144 US	9/15/2019
James G	Severn	MD	21144 US	7/9/2019
Mark K	Severn	MD	21144 US	7/1/2019
Kenton H	Severn	MD	21144 US	4/25/2019
Dana S	Severna Park	MD	21146 US	4/15/2019
Nancy J	Shady Side	MD	20764 US	5/6/2019
edna j	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	3/25/2022
Avery R	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	3/11/2022
Cat R	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	2/22/2022
Jessica S	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	2/22/2022
Jeanne H	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	2/21/2022
Susanna W	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	2/21/2022

Christine S	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	2/21/2022
Elaine M	Silver Spring	MD	20904 US	1/11/2022
Renee H	Silver Spring	MD	20902 US	11/30/2021
Marcy B	silver spring	MD	20904 US	10/2/2021
Marcia W	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	9/24/2021
Carryl A	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	9/4/2021
Daniel R	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	7/28/2021
Emily M	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	7/11/2021
Michael W	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	7/4/2021
Lyn G	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	6/25/2021
Payal S	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	6/4/2021
Austin M	Silver Spring	MD	20903 US	5/21/2021
Rachel S	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	2/25/2020
Milagros R	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	2/25/2020
Gabriel L	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	2/22/2020
Emily C	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	2/15/2020
beverly y	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	2/14/2020
Sally W	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	1/29/2020
Hannah F	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	1/24/2020
Eva I	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	1/21/2020
Pherrin M	Silver Spring	MD	20904 US	12/16/2019
Kevin M	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	11/6/2019
Rob H	Silver Spring	MD	20902 US	10/21/2019
Tiyawn A	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	10/16/2019
NL S	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	8/5/2019
Larry D	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	7/27/2019
Edna J	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	7/14/2019
Jeanne L	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	7/14/2019
Vihbi D	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	7/5/2019
Tina C	Silver Spring	MD	20904 US	7/3/2019
Lisa F	Silver Spring	MD	20906 US	7/2/2019
Yuri W	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	7/1/2019

Ifene F	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	6/30/2019
Steph B	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	5/27/2019
Gladys N	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	5/2/2019
Yedidah S	Silver Spring	MD	20910 US	4/29/2019
Adela J	Silver Spring	MD	20901 US	4/16/2019
Susan K	Smithsburg	MD	21783 US	5/27/2019
Jill B	Sparrows Point	MD	21219 US	12/31/2019
Susan K	Suitland	MD	20746 US	2/17/2020
Natalie B	Sykesville	MD	21784 US	7/19/2020
Rebecca B	Sykesville	MD	21784 US	4/13/2019
Jesse C	Takoma Park	MD	20912 US	3/7/2022
Rhonda J	Takoma Park	MD	20912 US	10/15/2021
Rebecca O	Takoma Park	MD	20912 US	5/10/2021
Jessica M	Takoma Park	MD	20912 US	4/12/2019
Robert G	Taneytown	MD	21787 US	1/2/2020
Hollow P	Temple Hills	MD	20748 US	9/24/2021
Malcolm B	Temple Hills	MD	20748 US	1/16/2020
shannan w	Temple Hills	MD	20748 US	7/11/2019
Carrie L	Thurmont	MD	21788 US	2/17/2020
Elizabeth R	Timonium	MD	21093 US	4/13/2019
Maddie L	Towson	MD	21286 US	6/5/2020
Emma S	Towson	MD	21204 US	11/15/2019
nicholas j	towson	MD	21204 US	1/27/2020
Mandy p	Union Bridge	MD	21791 US	4/12/2019
Lou S	University Park	MD	20782 US	8/9/2019
Hannah R	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774 US	9/24/2021
Nia S	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774 US	4/1/2021
Nissa N	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774 US	11/17/2019
John A	Upper Marlboro	MD	20772 US	4/28/2019
Russell G	Waldorf	MD	20601 US	1/26/2020
Victoria G	Waldorf	MD	20603 US	1/26/2020
Michael W	Waldorf	MD	20602 US	9/25/2019

Kylie M	Waldorf	MD	20601	US	8/5/2019
Priscilla b	Walkersville	MD	21793	US	3/3/2022
MaryLynn L	Walkersville	MD	21793	US	11/25/2019
Kenzie H	Walkersville	MD	21793	US	7/20/2019
Hal G	Walkersville	MD	21793	US	7/16/2019
Cera V	West River	MD	20778	US	11/10/2021
Meredith D	Westminster	MD	21157	US	3/6/2022
Brianna F	Westminster	MD	21157	US	10/6/2021
Ryan A	Westminster	MD	21158	US	9/20/2020
Crystal B	Westminster	MD	21157	US	12/7/2019
Rebecca M	Westminster	MD	21157	US	6/29/2019
B D	Westminster	MD	21157	US	6/29/2019
ashley I	White Plains	MD	2069f	US	11/23/2019
Joy C	Windsor Mill	MD	21244	US	6/29/2019
Donna W	Windsor Mill	MD	21244	US	4/21/2019
Mark W	Woodsboro	MD	21798	US	4/18/2021

Rae Johnson HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Vikki Porter

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rae Johnson and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

Rae Johnson
Raejohnson21@gmail.com

Torsiello HB1238 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Vikki Porter

Position: FAV

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is John Torsiello, Jr. and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 1238**- Open Captioning 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 1238.

Sincerely,

John Torsiello
johntorsiello@yahoo.com

NATO Testimony on HB 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: Alex Rich

Position: UNF



**Statement of Position
National Association of Theatre Owners**

In Opposition to HB 1238: Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Maryland State Assembly

April 5, 2022

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) operating in Maryland, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to HB 1238 - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning.

The exhibition industry is committed to providing access for all patrons attending a motion picture. To achieve this goal, NATO has worked with the federal government, exhibitors, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to provide personal closed captioning devices that ensure equal access for every movie at every showtime. Furthermore, theatres throughout the country, and especially those operating in Maryland, are committed to providing additional options for access by scheduling open-captioned showtimes based on consumer desire and guest feedback. In any given week, there are likely over 150 open captioned shows being offered throughout the state.

As you know, the exhibition industry continues to struggle in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationally, theatres are down more than 50% this year compared to pre-covid numbers. With the extended closure of over a year in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland's theaters have been affected much worse than most areas. As of the end of 2021, Maryland's revenue loss at the box office and concessions was estimated to be well over \$400 million.

Meanwhile, data collected by exhibitors shows that open-captioned showtimes attract fewer guests than non-captioned shows. A mandate such as HB 1238 would further inhibit the industry's recovery in Maryland. Instead, we ask that the exhibitors be allowed to continue developing models for open-captioned programming that fit the needs of the communities where they operate.

A "one-size-fits-all" approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater nor the customers they serve. An open-captioned mandate would not allow theatres to build a flexible framework in which operators and advocates can work together to create market-driven programs that can be adjusted and improved where needed. Through this joint process, movie theaters aim to implement open-captioned programs that meet or exceed the demands of the local market.

For these reasons, NATO respectfully opposes HB 1238: Motion Picture Houses – Captioning. The exhibition industry remains committed to maintaining access for all patrons attending movies and expanding options for their customers based on consumer demand.



OPEN CAPTION MANDATES DO NOT REFLECT THE MARKETPLACE

Overbroad legislation requiring mandatory open captioned showings of films without consideration for economic realities would have a negative impact on the state’s movie theater industry—especially as financially crippled cinemas emerge from the pandemic. Instead, movie theater operators are working to expand access options for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing through consumer-driven programs for films with on-screen subtitles. This is a proven solution as advocates and policymakers in other states have recognized the benefits of pursuing collaborative solutions instead of onerous, inflexible legislation. Additionally, allowing market-driven open caption programs to proceed will enable theatres to continue gathering and evaluating data, and work with stakeholders to pursue the most effective paths forward for motion picture accessibility in the state.

- ⊗ **Build Open Caption Programs.** Put simply, a “one-size-fits-all” approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater nor the communities they serve. Instead, it is important to avert rigid legislative mandates by building a flexible framework in which stakeholders work together to create market-driven programs that can be adjusted and improved where needed.
- ⊗ **Collect Data to Improve Access.** Cinemas will continue to collect and share data on the impact of open caption programs.
- ⊗ **Promote Open Caption Films.** Cinemas clearly display which showtimes offer open caption films on company websites and at the box office. Historically, NATO members have partnered with stakeholders to promote open caption programs in communities across the state.
- ⊗ **Improve Closed Caption Moviegoing Experience.** In accordance with NATO’s historic agreement with advocacy groups and the Department of Justice, cinemas will continue to provide closed caption devices for use at every movie showtime. NATO is also developing new staff training resources on proper maintenance and operation of closed caption devices and systems.

Cinemas throughout the country have been tracking open caption programs. Recent data from these efforts show little to no attendance at open caption shows in key industry markets, and even lower attendance where open caption shows have been mandated.



4.14 Tickets

**Average Attendance
Per Open Captioned Show
Regal Cinemas
Hawaii Statewide
(Mandate by Law)**
Locations: 8
1,191 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 95.44%
(11/5/21 – 3/20/22)



5.18 Tickets

**Average Attendance
Per Open Captioned Show
Regal Cinemas
Colorado
(Test Market)**
Locations: 5
1,108 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 95.83%
(11/5/21 – 3/20/22)



8.9 Tickets

**Average Attendance
Per Open Captioned Show
Cinemark
Colorado
(Test Market)**
Locations: 8
4,170 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 91.2%
(6/12/21 – 12/31/22)



12 Tickets

**Average Attendance
Per Open Captioned Show
AMC Theatres
New York City DMA
(Top USA Market)**
Locations: 16
914 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 94.2%
(10/1/21 – 11/14/21)

HB 1238 Testimony - Cinemark.pdf

Uploaded by: Arthur Murtha

Position: UNF



**HB 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022**

Position: Oppose

On behalf of Cinemark Theatres, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 1238. Cinemark Theatres is already providing open caption showtimes voluntarily at our two theatres in Maryland and we are also compliant with federal law on accessibility, we believe that this legislation is unnecessary.

Cinemark has been an industry-leader when it comes to offering our deaf and hard of hearing guest's options to see a movie. Years before it was a federal requirement, Cinemark proactively equipped all of our theaters with Closed Caption and Assisted Listening devices that allowed on-demand viewing of all caption-capable features at our guests' convenience. These devices are in regular use every week and we continue to receive positive feedback on both convenience and ease of use. When we were able to reopen in mid-2020, we made a commitment to expand open caption options through both our Private Watch Party and Group Events programs. And although these open caption options are not frequently taken advantage of, they have been well received.

Starting in the middle of 2021, Cinemark Theatres once again evolved and has undertaken a voluntary open caption program in several states, including Maryland, where we recently began offering open captioning showtimes. Each of our two theatres offers showtimes on every feature with a full schedule twice a week: once on the weekend and once during the week. To be more specific, our theatre in Towson offers showtimes on Saturdays and Mondays while our theatre in Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover offers open captioning showtimes on Sundays and Wednesdays. As a result, Cinemark Theatres is offering open captioning four days every week. For your reference, here is a picture of our messaging that appears on each theatre's website landing page on cinemark.com. This screen shot is for our theatre in Towson.

On-Screen Captions Available

This theatre offers on-screen captions for select showtimes. On-screen open captions display dialog and sound descriptions in text throughout a film. Look for the on-screen caption designation next to applicable showtimes every Saturday & Monday.

As you can see, we are communicating clearly and with detail. Furthermore, and as noted above, we offer open captioning showtimes on all films that have a full schedule for the day, thus, we are pleased to offer our guests a wide range of choice when coming to our theatres.

Senators, we are working hard to understand and react to the needs of our deaf and hard of hearing communities. We have never waited for legislation to dictate our programming and, because of what we have been happily willing to do, we do not feel legislation is necessary now.

Additionally, I have a grave concern regarding a provision in HB 1238 that could have unintended consequences for our audiences in Maryland. The bill as written requires that ALL features be offered with open captioning two times a week. The theatre exhibition industry's show scheduling is fluid and evolves from week to week. Quite often we feature special one day only events that are unique and special or we may just decide to offer just one showtime a day of an older movie that is at the end of its engagement. As currently written, I am concerned we would no longer be able to exhibit these special events because we would be in technical violation of the law.

By allowing Cinemark Theatres to offer open caption showings on a voluntary basis, rather than a mandated basis, it allows us to react to actual demand and adjust the number of screenings and the showtimes as appropriate. As you may know, our movie theaters were closed for approximately fifty weeks due to the pandemic. As we economically recover from a period of time in which we had zero income, flexibility in scheduling is paramount.

In conclusion, we believe that our voluntary open caption program meets consumer demand as opposed to a rigid mandate that would be economically damaging and unnecessary. Therefore, we respectfully request that you give HB 1238 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Arthur D. Murtha
Senior Vice President, Operations
Cinemark Theatres
amurtha@cinemark.com

Regal Cinemas Testimony Bill 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: Bobby Fiandra

Position: UNF



Testimony of Bobby Fiandra/ Regal Cinemas in OPPOSITION To House Bill 1238 - Places of Public
Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
POSITION: Oppose

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the committee. My name is Bobby Fiandra, I am a District Manager for Regal Cinemas overseeing operations in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Regal Cinemas operates 13 theatres and 187 screens in Maryland. We respectfully oppose Bill 1238.

As you are aware the pandemic significantly impacted our business. Movie theatres were among the last to reopen. During the twelve months we were closed, our company incurred heavy fixed costs, such as rent and utilities, which dramatically compounded our losses. The effects of the pandemic are still impacting our business today. Audiences of all types, including the deaf and hard of hearing community, have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, we have found ourselves having to make operational sacrifices including curtailing hours of business.

As a company, serving all audiences is integral to our financial success. We feature a diverse array of film product ranging from blockbuster movies to independent films as well as foreign features. Our intention is to appeal to as wide of an audience as possible and this includes members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

All of our Maryland sites currently play open caption titles upon advance guest request. We believe that responding to our guests in the market is what allows us to best serve the community and meet business needs. We feel that collaboration rather than legislation is the best approach.

Although we feature open caption shows daily at some of our Maryland locations; the occupancy for these performances has been very low. The majority of our theatre going audience is not interested in performances with subtitles and will typically avoid open captioned performances all together. In many cases, guests request a refund after attending as they find the open captioning to be distracting. Mandating open caption performance counts would have a negative financial impact on our business at a time when we're still recovering from Covid related losses.

In addition to proactively providing open caption performances based on demand, we also offer several technologies along with private rentals to further accommodate our guests. All of our locations are equipped with Assisted Listening headphones to amplify the audio and Closed Captioning devices to allow guests to see captions in their field of view without affecting other moviegoers. Additionally, our Private Watch Party program allows guests, even in small groups, to rent an entire auditorium to watch a movie of their choice.

To summarize, our intention is to enable as many people to patronize our cinemas as possible. It is in our best interest to engage and accommodate our deaf and hard of hearing guests but mandating open captioning across the board will limit flexibility and cause further harm to our recovering business. We ask you for an unfavorable report on HB 1238. Thank you.

2022_0404 The Charles Theatre.HB 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Lyon

Position: UNF



April 4, 2022

**RE: HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses –
Captioning
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
Position: Unfavorable**

Dear Chairman Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

My family owns and operates The Charles Theatre in Baltimore, and, respectfully, I am writing to ask that you oppose HB 1238 - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning. As written, the bill would require at least two open-captioned shows per film each week, after the film's first play week.

This one-size-fits-all mandate is problematic because not all cinemas offer the same programming. The legislation would (1) prove challenging logistically for many of the titles we offer our patrons, potentially eliminating certain programming altogether, and (2) does not reflect the demand for open-captioning in Baltimore.

Our theater screens independent films and revival films. With independent films, there may be only one or two shows scheduled per day. And the "revival" films are offered on an even less frequent basis, at times only once or twice in a given week. Note that the number of screenings offered for a title in any week is based on expected attendance. For more obscure programming, there might be only one screening in a week.

Thus, a requirement to screen at least two open-captioned shows of every film every week would potentially eliminate programming a film that would receive only one showtime in a week.

To be sure, we appreciate and welcome our deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We provide closed-captioning devices that give deaf and hard-of-hearing guests the opportunity to attend any movie, at any time. The devices are utilized approximately once or twice per month.

We have good relationships with our deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We are able to schedule open-caption shows upon advanced request, and we did so, for example, this past February for screenings of BELFAST.



Anecdotally, last August I met with Jacob Leffler of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (“BCAD”). Mr. Leffler had inquired about a fundraising opportunity at our theatre for BCAD in connection with the release of the movie CODA. Attached is my email exchange with Mr. Leffler.

In support of the BCAD’s efforts, we offered at no charge use of our lobby so that BCAD could present promotional materials to the theater’s customers and invite them to sign up on BCAD’s mailing list. The BCAD held its event on August 20, 2021.

In the days leading up to BCAD’s event, I met with members of the BCAD, including Mr. Leffler, to show them the lobby space. At that time, Mr. Leffler posed the question whether the theater would consider screening open-caption shows. I responded, yes, and invited BCAD to let us know of any titles in which they had interest. I have not received any further inquiries from either BCAD or Mr. Leffler about open-caption programming.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guests’ requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, which does not, in fact, fit. Know that this legislation would impact programming choices, ultimately eliminating some programming altogether.

We, therefore, ask that you vote unfavorable on HB 1238. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Lyon

Enclosure

ATTACHMENT

Re: Fundraiser Event at Charles Theatre

From: Charles Theatre (charlestheatre@yahoo.com)

To: bcadeaf2020@gmail.com

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 10:16 AM EDT

That works, thank you.

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 10:15:44 AM EDT, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <bcadeaf2020@gmail.com> wrote:

I can meet at 1pm if that works?

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

My apologies, Jacob. I already have a 2:00 call today. Are you available earlier?

Thank you,
Chris
410-727-3464

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 8:01 AM, Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning, Jacob. 2:00 today is fine, and by phone, too, works. Unless you'd prefer to see the lobby.

Regards,
Chris
410-727-3464

On Monday, August 16, 2021, 08:45:49 PM EDT, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <bcadeaf2020@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Sure, we can meet tomorrow in the afternoon? After 2pm? Let me know what time works for you.

Thank you,

Jacob Leffler

On Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 8:28 PM Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi, sounds good. Do you have time tomorrow to chat about logistics?

Thank you,
Chris
410-727-3464

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, August 16, 2021, 8:01 PM, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <bcadeaf2020@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Mr. Lyon,

Thank you for the email. I apologize for the delay in responding to you. I had to share with the Board. We agree that we would like to have a space in the lobby. We would like to be there at 4 showtimes. 1 or 2 people will be there representing BCAD at each time with a flyer about our organization and for people to sign up for our mailing list.

We are excited about seeing CODA on Friday!

Can you let us know what is the next step to reserve it and the location of it?

Thank you,

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 9:42 AM Charles Theatre <charlestheatre@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Leffler, thank you for reaching out. We are looking forward to our run of CODA, a first full release open caption across the board. We do appreciate you thinking of us and we'd be happy to donate space in our lobby for any fundraising efforts that might make sense, as well as a set of passes. Regarding donating a share of ticket sales as you propose, you might imagine, it has been a difficult time for theaters this past 1 1/2 years, and, moreover, the distributor already takes a considerable share off the top. So that's something we're not willing to do. But let us know if there's interest in our other suggestions.

Regards,
Chris Lyon
410-727-3464

On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 03:58:09 PM EDT, Baltimore City Association of the Deaf <bcadeaf2020@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Lyon,

The President and Treasurer of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf stopped by at the theatre today to discuss the movie, CODA that you will show on Friday, August 20, 2021. We learned that the tickets are not available until next week.

We inquired about the fundraiser event and they told us to contact you via email. We were wondering if it is possible for us to have a fundraiser event on Friday, August 20, 2021. We were thinking, maybe some percentage of sales can go to our organization. Of course, we will promote the event statewide.

A little background of our organization and what we do. The Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD) is an organization in the City of Baltimore that provides advocacy and services to the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals in Baltimore City, Maryland.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jacob Leffler

President
Baltimore City Association of the Deaf

hb 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: david phillips

Position: UNF



Executive Offices:

231 W. Cherry Hill Ct., P.O. Box 1056
Reisterstown, MD 21136-7056
Telephone 410-526-4774
Fax 410-526-6871

HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 5, 2022

Position: Unfavorable

My name is David Phillips and I am the Chief Operating Officer of RC Theatres. R/C Theatres is a small 3rd generation family owned Maryland Company. It was started in the 1920's with the Leader Theatre in Baltimore and is presently owned by the founder's grandson, Scott R. Cohen. R/C maintains its corporate office in Maryland, employees over 100 Marylanders and operates theatres in Westminster, Arbutus and California MD.

I am concerned that this bill will be detrimental to our business and does not reflect the programming demand of our consumers. Recently an open caption trailer was accidentally scheduled on one of our films, sending someone out to the lobby asking if there was something wrong with the presentation; not wanting or expecting subtitles on the screen. Even with best efforts to inform our guests, we worry that open caption shows will result in negative experiences and stifled ticket sales.

As written, the bill would require at least two open caption shows per film each week. This one-size-fits-all mandate would not reflect the demand for open captioning at our Maryland theatres; and would prove challenging to schedule for films held over for just a show or two per day, as well as specialty programs that may play only once or twice in any given week.. If this bill passes, I fear it will hurt our recovery through lower attendance, a decline in ticket sales, and negative customer feedback.

We appreciate and welcome our deaf and hard of hearing patrons, and already provide closed captioning devices that give these guests the opportunity to attend any movie, at any time. In addition, we are able to schedule open caption shows upon request through the Accessibility page on our website (<https://www.rctheatres.com/page?id=12302>). As a company, in our many years of operation in Maryland, we have received so few requests they could be counted on one hand.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guest requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all legislated mandate that will seriously impact ticket sales and impede our recovery.

Respectfully,

David Phillips, COO

DRH Opposition Testimony to Senate Judicial Procee

Uploaded by: Derek Hein

Position: UNF



WE MAKE MOVIES BETTER™

April 5, 2022

**House Bill 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Position: Oppose

On behalf of AMC Theatres, the largest theatrical exhibitor in the State of Maryland and the United States, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 1238. Since AMC is already providing open caption showtimes voluntarily and complies with federal law on accessibility, this legislation is unnecessary.

Inclusive programming is core to AMC's strategy, and we are proud to lead the theatrical exhibition industry by making open caption showtimes available in the state of Maryland. Currently, guests at 7 AMC locations within the state can find clearly marked open caption showtimes at AMCTheatres.com and on the AMC mobile app. The showtimes currently represent a mix of weekend and weekdays, evenings, and matinees, and are expected to evolve with movie-going demand and guest feedback.

In addition to public showtimes, open captions are also available through AMC's Private Theatre Rentals program. While AMC is excited to offer open captioning for those guests who desire this format, substantially all showtimes at AMC will continue to be offered with closed captioning, which allows audience members to attend all shows at every time without any disruption in ticket sales. Therefore, AMC will continue to have closed captioning and assisted listening devices available at all its locations in the state.

By allowing AMC to offer open caption showings on a voluntary basis, rather than a mandated basis, it allows us to react to actual demand and adjust the number of screenings and the showtimes as appropriate. As you may know, our movie theaters were closed for approximately fifty weeks due to the pandemic. As we economically recover from a period of time in which we had zero income, flexibility in scheduling is paramount.

In conclusion, we believe that our voluntary open caption program meets consumer demand as opposed to a rigid mandate that would be economically damaging and unnecessary. Therefore, we respectfully request that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Derek Hein
On behalf of AMC Theatres
derek@1861consulting.com
(785) 319-9898

Don Fox, Fox Theatres LLC - Open Captioning Testim

Uploaded by: Donald Fox

Position: UNF



House Bill 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
POSITION: Oppose

Testimony of Donald Fox
Fox Theatres LLC

My name is Donald Fox. I am the owner of Fox Theatres LLC, a movie theater company based in Reading, Pennsylvania. The company, founded in 1957 by my father, Richard Fox, today operates twenty screens in three theater locations. Two theaters, the Sun & Surf Cinema and the Fox Gold Coast, are in Ocean City, Maryland, and one additional theater is in Reading, Pennsylvania.

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of HB 1238. While Fox Theatres fully supports access for all guests, and already has a number of methods to serve our hearing impaired community, the audience is small and the demand is minimal. This bill will hurt our business more than it will impact the deaf and hard of hearing customers.

On a personal note, I have severe hearing loss and wear hearing aids in both ears. While I agree that open captions would give some moviegoers another option, it's totally unnecessary to run two open captioned shows per film every week. In February 2022, we began offering two open captioned shows per week for one film only, a new release, at our 8-screen movie theater, Sun & Surf Cinema: one show on Sunday at 3pm and one on Wednesday at 3pm. Only nine-percent of the customers attending these open caption shows came for the open captions. We know this because we survey the audience at every open caption show.

This means 91% of customers at our open caption shows are not there for open captions, they are there to see a movie at that particular showtime. They are not looking for an open caption showtime and some customers have left the theater when they find out their showtime has open captions. Additional open captions shows each week would not bring in more deaf and hard of hearing customers, it would only alienate hearing customers.

Movie theaters are just starting to recover from the devastation the pandemic had on our business and the resulting new competition from streaming. The passage of the law would create an additional financial burden to movie theaters because of the loss of revenue from patrons who will avoid going to an open caption showtime and don't have other options that work for their schedule. I thank you for allowing me to convey our concerns, and urge the committee to vote NO on HB 1238.

Testimony - HB 1238 - Mid-Atlantic NATO unfavorabl

Uploaded by: Doug Murdoch

Position: UNF



HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
Position: Unfavorable

On behalf of Mid-Atlantic NATO, a regional affiliate of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), representing movie theatres throughout Maryland, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to HB 1238.

Maryland’s movie theaters are committed to access for the deaf and hard of hearing. For over 25 years, the movie theater industry has collaborated with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to achieve access to all feature films at all times.

Moviegoers in Maryland seeking captions have the flexibility to view a movie with captions at any showtime, on any day. In 2016, the Department of Justice issued a final rule requiring digital movie theaters to provide closed movie captioning equipment. The DOJ adopted the majority of recommendations set forth in an agreement between the National Association of Theatre Owners and major advocacy groups, including the Hearing Loss Association of America and the National Association of the Deaf. Through these collaborative efforts, today, digital movie theaters in Maryland offer closed movie captioning devices (allowing text to be viewable by an individual moviegoer) that can be used at any show time for any movie that comes with closed movie captions.

Movie theaters in Maryland already work with their local communities to enhance existing access by scheduling open movie captioned shows on a regular basis. In addition to closed captioning offerings, where the demand for open captioned (text on the screen viewable by all moviegoers) showtimes exists, movie theaters in Maryland work with their deaf and hard of hearing patrons to develop market appropriate programming and accommodations. A listing of current open movie captioning programs being offered throughout the state is included with this testimony.

Lawmakers should allow the industry to respond to the marketplace instead of passing a “one-size-fits-all” statewide mandate. Our records indicate that the mandate set forth in HB 1238 would apply to 49 movie theater locations across the state where owners operate at least two locations. The bill would require these locations to provide open captioning twice per week per film, after the first week, for almost every movie played, regardless of local demographics. Based on the 524-screen count across these 49 locations, we estimate this bill would require approximately 900 open captioned shows per week, 46,800 open captioned showtimes per year.

Historically, the industry has found that when open-captioned shows are mandated, instead of scheduled based on customer demand, theaters see a significant drop in attendance. Despite assertions to the contrary, attendance data demonstrates that open caption showtimes have a very small turnout due to limited consumer demand.

Movie theaters were devastated by the pandemic and are struggling to recover. Despite slight gains over 2020 attendance numbers when theatres were shuttered for most of the year, box office admissions in



Maryland were still 64.8% lower in 2021 than they were in 2019. Even with the most recent blockbuster release making national headlines in March of 2022, our Maryland theatres were still more than 50% lower than pre-pandemic levels. It will likely take years to recover their losses, and the open captioning mandate outlined in HB 1238 would further reduce theater attendance at a critical time for movie theaters' recovery. Since movie theaters are already 100% accessible and offer enhanced access with open movie caption showtimes, we believe this legislation to be unnecessary and potentially harmful to a theater's financial viability.

HB 1238 also has technical issues within the language of the bill that could have unintended consequences on how the rule would be applied to Maryland movie theaters. While house lawmakers have described the bill as being based on prior legislation from Hawaii (the only state with a captioning law, with far fewer theater owners covered), Maryland's definition of "closed captioning" in motion picture theaters is misplaced, the use of the word "houses" to describe covered locations is ambiguous, and the reference to provide "open captioning" for films produced and offered with "closed captioning" is inherently incorrect.

In its 2016 ruling, the Department of Justice (DOJ) intentionally used the terms "open movie captioning" and "closed movie captioning" instead of "closed captioning" so as not to confuse viewers and readers with the terms used in the context of television captioning, whereby a viewer at home is able to activate the "hidden" captions with the selection on a remote control, thereby making the captions visible to all by choice. Captioning on television cannot be viewed with the same assistive technology as used in a movie theater, and captioning on a movie screen cannot be accomplished with the same assistive technology as on a television.

Not all films play full-week schedules. As written, HB 1238 would require open captioning twice per week for each motion picture it screens, without allowance for special event films that may only play once per week, or once per day. In addition, many films in subsequent weeks after the first few weeks will be held over for just a show or two per day, and may end mid-week to allow space to open a new motion picture.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB 1238.

For further information, please contact Jenna Massoni (410-935-1470, jmassoni@cgagroup.com) or Ellen Valentino (410-693-2226, evalentino@cgagroup.com) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443.895.1446, doug@midatlanticnato.com).



Open Movie Captioning Programs Maryland Movie Theaters April 2022

Introduction

Mid-Atlantic NATO (Maryland) and the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) appreciate the opportunity to work with advocates, state and local governments, and theaters of every size to increase access for individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. While all digital theaters are currently accessible to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, NATO members understand consumer desire for access options and are committed to expanding access by the creation and implementation of pilot open movie captioning programming. NATO members are eager to partner with advocacy organizations to promote these showtimes to moviegoers.

In addition to open movie caption programs in Maryland and across the country, NATO members will continue to offer the use of closed movie captioning devices and make these individual devices available at every movie, at every showtime in accordance with the exhibition industry's agreement with the Department of Justice. Staff will continue to be trained on the preparation and use of the devices. NATO is also developing additional training material for its members on proper maintenance of closed movie captioning devices and systems.

This memo outlines select open movie captioning programs currently happening in Maryland theaters, but should not be considered complete, as all locations are scheduling additional open captioned showtimes on a theater-by-theater basis in response to guest requests.

AMC Theatres

AMC has a nationwide program with 260 locations currently offering showtimes with open captions. The following Maryland locations are participating in this program:

- AMC Rio Cinemas 18 – Gaithersburg
- AMC Owings Mills 17 – Owings Mills
- AMC White Marsh 16 – Baltimore
- AMC Montgomery 16 – Bethesda
- AMC Columbia Mall 14 – Columbia
- AMC MJ Capital Center 12 – Largo
- AMC Wheaton Mall 9 – Wheaton

For all week-one wide release titles with open captions available, open caption showtimes are scheduled for at least one weekend matinee time and one weekday evening. For all blockbuster titles, theaters will play one show per day in its first full week of release, followed by a second week of one weekend matinee and one weekday prime show.



Cinemark Theatres

Cinemark operates two locations in Maryland, and will offer open captioned showtimes on all films that have a full, daily show schedule as follows:

- Cinemark Egyptian 24 – Hanover – Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.
- Cinemark Towson 15 – Towson – Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings.

Fox Theatres

Fox Theatres Sun & Surf 8 in Ocean City is playing one new or recently released movie in open caption twice per week at 3pm on Sundays and Wednesdays. Listed on their website at <https://www.foxshowtimes.com/page?id=15700>.

Hoyt's

Hoyt's West Nursery Cinema 14 in Linthicum is playing one open caption show daily, random movies and times as listed on their website at <https://www.westnurserycinemas.com/showtimes>.

RC Theatres

RC will schedule open caption shows upon advanced request through the accessibility page on their website at <https://www.rctheatres.com/page?id=12302>. Participating locations include:

- R/C Hollywood Cinema 4 - Arbutus
- R/C Lexington Exchange Movies 12 - California
- R/C Westminster 9 - Westminster

Regal Cinemas

Regal has instituted open captioning programs in the following Maryland locations:

- Regal Majestic 20 – Silver Spring
- Regal Westview 16 – Frederick
- Regal Germantown 14 – Germantown
- Regal Snowden Square 14 – Columbia
- Regal Hunt Valley 12 – Hunt Valley
- Regal Laurel Towne Center 12 - Hyattsville

The weekly open captioning lineup features the top three titles per week according to gross. The top-grossing film will play three times a week on a Friday evening, a Sunday matinee, and a Wednesday matinee. The second highest-grossing film in each week will play with open captions during a Saturday matinee and a Tuesday evening. The third film will play in matinee slot on Mondays and Thursdays.



Warehouse Cinemas

Warehouse Cinemas has a long-standing partnership with local deaf and hard of hearing advocates in Frederick, and representatives from the Maryland School for the Deaf. Each week, they work together to select films and showtimes to offer open captioned shows. They have two locations participating as follows:

- Warehouse Cinemas Frederick 10 – Frederick – At least two open caption shows per day on films selected by feedback.
- Warehouse Cinemas Hagerstown 10 – Hagerstown – Four to five open caption shows per week. The number of showtimes will increase with demand and additional film product.

ALL LOCATIONS

Marketing of Open Captioned Films

NATO members are clearly displaying which showtimes offer open captioning in each of their theatres when patrons purchase a ticket on a theatre's website or at the box office.

Open Captioning Programs Framework

NATO members operating in Maryland are committed to continuing voluntary open captioning programs on a theater-by-theater basis. A "one-size-fits-all" approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater or the markets in which they operate. Consequently, theater operators are seeking to develop open captioning programs that meet or exceed the demands of the market in which they operate and have developed varying programs to meet those goals.

The current open movie caption programs will run indefinitely, but no less than at least a year from April 1, 2022. Note, based on consumer feedback and the results of individual companies, the parameters of individual programs may change from time to time to reflect the marketplace.

For further information, please contact Jenna Massoni (410-935-1470, jmassoni@cgagroup.com) or Ellen Valentino (410-693-2226, evalentino@cgagroup.com) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443.895.1446, doug@midatlanticnato.com).

CGA HB 1238 UNF 4-5-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenna Massoni

Position: UNF

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: HB 1238 Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Good Afternoon Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

As we represent the Mid-Atlantic National Association of Theater Owners, we are respectfully requesting an unfavorable report for HB 1238. This bill will require theaters provide open captioning for each motion picture it screens for at least 2 screenings each week. **In all, a total of 900 open caption shows per week in the state and 46,800 open caption shows per year. A number that just does not have that kind of demand.**

During COVID, unlike some other businesses, movie theaters were shuttered in full. Many theaters in the state were completely closed for over a year, and they are still very much in a recovery period. **Since the shut down in March of 2020, we estimate our collective losses at the box office and concessions to be well over \$400 million in Maryland.**

Compared to 2019, Maryland box office admissions were down (\$160,548,456) in 2020, and another (\$127, 514, 871) in 2021. Together with lost concession sales, and more admission losses during the first quarter of 2022, **Maryland movie theatres have been ranked 47th in the country on recovery (Hawaii is 50th).** Although, there is nothing better than seeing a movie on the big screen, behaviors have changed, and content availability is at the touch of every finger.

As an industry we cannot afford to lose any customers, and it is our goal to ensure every customer that comes to the movies wants to return. Movie theaters will not survive without great customer service and a great experience for movie-goers.

Only one state* has imposed a similar law – the state of Hawaii. [Linked here](#) is the impact report from the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, and it shows a loss of viewership and revenue in a much smaller market than Maryland. Data in their report shows that **"...the difference in aggregate patron attendance <reduced attendance> between open-caption showings and non-open-caption showings was estimated at 94,755 patrons per year for the two theater companies combined."**

(*NYC recently enacted a law, but it is currently not in effect, and the impact is unknown.)

Advocates for the bill say theaters will not be negatively impacted by this bill—yet we have not seen any data to indicate that contention. We would gladly review any studies or meet with any advocates who are willing to share with us on this point.

Our industry has been one of the hardest hit. Movie theaters have been at the center of large developments but unfortunately, **Maryland has lost movie theaters to closure**, and sadly we have lost movie goers as well. **This legislation could have unintentional consequences of further alienating some movie goers that avoid open captioned shows and accelerating the closing of more theaters.** We request an unfavorable report.

We have included written testimony submissions from several theater owners, National Association of Theater Owners, and Mid-Atlantic National Association of Theater Owners. Please refer to the documents in pages 3-18.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Valentino, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Jenna Massoni, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Bernie Marczyk, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Delora Sanchez Ifekauche, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Doug Murdoch, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic National Association of Theater Owners



House Bill 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
POSITION: Oppose

Testimony of Donald Fox
Fox Theatres LLC

My name is Donald Fox. I am the owner of Fox Theatres LLC, a movie theater company based in Reading, Pennsylvania. The company, founded in 1957 by my father, Richard Fox, today operates twenty screens in three theater locations. Two theaters, the Sun & Surf Cinema and the Fox Gold Coast, are in Ocean City, Maryland, and one additional theater is in Reading, Pennsylvania.

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of Senate Bill No. 958. While Fox Theatres fully supports access for all guests, and already has a number of methods to serve our hearing impaired community, the audience is small and the demand is minimal. This bill will hurt our business more than it will impact the deaf and hard of hearing customers.

On a personal note, I have severe hearing loss and wear hearing aids in both ears. While I agree that open captions would give some moviegoers another option, it's totally unnecessary to run two open captioned shows per film every week. In February 2022, we began offering two open captioned shows per week for one film only, a new release, at our 8-screen movie theater, Sun & Surf Cinema: one show on Sunday at 3pm and one on Wednesday at 3pm. Only nine-percent of the customers attending these open caption shows came for the open captions. We know this because we survey the audience at every open caption show.

This means 91% of customers at our open caption shows are not there for open captions, they are there to see a movie at that particular showtime. They are not looking for an open caption showtime and some customers have left the theater when they find out their showtime has open captions. Additional open captions shows each week would not bring in more deaf and hard of hearing customers, it would only alienate hearing customers.

Movie theaters are just starting to recover from the devastation the pandemic had on our business and the resulting new competition from streaming. The passage of the law would create an additional financial burden to movie theaters because of the loss of revenue from patrons who will avoid going to an open caption showtime and don't have other options that work for their schedule. I thank you for allowing me to convey our concerns, and urge the committee to vote NO on Senate Bill 958.



**HB 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022**

Position: Oppose

On behalf of Cinemark Theatres, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 1238. Cinemark Theatres is already providing open caption showtimes voluntarily at our two theatres in Maryland and we are also compliant with federal law on accessibility, we believe that this legislation is unnecessary.

Cinemark has been an industry-leader when it comes to offering our deaf and hard of hearing guest's options to see a movie. Years before it was a federal requirement, Cinemark proactively equipped all of our theaters with Closed Caption and Assisted Listening devices that allowed on-demand viewing of all caption-capable features at our guests' convenience. These devices are in regular use every week and we continue to receive positive feedback on both convenience and ease of use. When we were able to reopen in mid-2020, we made a commitment to expand open caption options through both our Private Watch Party and Group Events programs. And although these open caption options are not frequently taken advantage of, they have been well received.

Starting in the middle of 2021, Cinemark Theatres once again evolved and has undertaken a voluntary open caption program in several states, including Maryland, where we recently began offering open captioning showtimes. Each of our two theatres offers showtimes on every feature with a full schedule twice a week: once on the weekend and once during the week. To be more specific, our theatre in Towson offers showtimes on Saturdays and Mondays while our theatre in Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover offers open captioning showtimes on Sundays and Wednesdays. As a result, Cinemark Theatres is offering open captioning four days every week. For your reference, here is a picture of our messaging that appears on each theatre's website landing page on cinemark.com. This screen shot is for our theatre in Towson.

On-Screen Captions Available

This theatre offers on-screen captions for select showtimes. On-screen open captions display dialog and sound descriptions in text throughout a film. Look for the on-screen caption designation next to applicable showtimes every Saturday & Monday.

As you can see, we are communicating clearly and with detail. Furthermore, and as noted above, we offer open captioning showtimes on all films that have a full schedule for the day, thus, we are pleased to offer our guests a wide range of choice when coming to our theatres.

Senators, we are working hard to understand and react to the needs of our deaf and hard of hearing communities. We have never waited for legislation to dictate our programming and, because of what we have been happily willing to do, we do not feel legislation is necessary now.

Additionally, I have a grave concern regarding a provision in HB 1238 that could have unintended consequences for our audiences in Maryland. The bill as written requires that ALL features be offered with open captioning two times a week. The theatre exhibition industry's show scheduling is fluid and evolves from week to week. Quite often we feature special one day only events that are unique and special or we may just decide to offer just one showtime a day of an older movie that is at the end of its engagement. As currently written, I am concerned we would no longer be able to exhibit these special events because we would be in technical violation of the law.

By allowing Cinemark Theatres to offer open caption showings on a voluntary basis, rather than a mandated basis, it allows us to react to actual demand and adjust the number of screenings and the showtimes as appropriate. As you may know, our movie theaters were closed for approximately fifty weeks due to the pandemic. As we economically recover from a period of time in which we had zero income, flexibility in scheduling is paramount.

In conclusion, we believe that our voluntary open caption program meets consumer demand as opposed to a rigid mandate that would be economically damaging and unnecessary. Therefore, we respectfully request that you give HB 1238 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Arthur D. Murtha
Senior Vice President, Operations
Cinemark Theatres
amurtha@cinemark.com



WE MAKE MOVIES BETTER™

April 5, 2022

**House Bill 1238 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Position: Oppose

On behalf of AMC Theatres, the largest theatrical exhibitor in the State of Maryland and the United States, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 1238. Since AMC is already providing open caption showtimes voluntarily and complies with federal law on accessibility, this legislation is unnecessary.

Inclusive programming is core to AMC's strategy, and we are proud to lead the theatrical exhibition industry by making open caption showtimes available in the state of Maryland. Currently, guests at 7 AMC locations within the state can find clearly marked open caption showtimes at AMCTheatres.com and on the AMC mobile app. The showtimes currently represent a mix of weekend and weekdays, evenings, and matinees, and are expected to evolve with movie-going demand and guest feedback.

In addition to public showtimes, open captions are also available through AMC's Private Theatre Rentals program. While AMC is excited to offer open captioning for those guests who desire this format, substantially all showtimes at AMC will continue to be offered with closed captioning, which allows audience members to attend all shows at every time without any disruption in ticket sales. Therefore, AMC will continue to have closed captioning and assisted listening devices available at all its locations in the state.

By allowing AMC to offer open caption showings on a voluntary basis, rather than a mandated basis, it allows us to react to actual demand and adjust the number of screenings and the showtimes as appropriate. As you may know, our movie theaters were closed for approximately fifty weeks due to the pandemic. As we economically recover from a period of time in which we had zero income, flexibility in scheduling is paramount.

In conclusion, we believe that our voluntary open caption program meets consumer demand as opposed to a rigid mandate that would be economically damaging and unnecessary. Therefore, we respectfully request that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Derek Hein
On behalf of AMC Theatres
derek@1861consulting.com
(785) 319-9898



HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
Position: Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1238 - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning.

My name is Thomas Wienholt, and I am the Vice President of Horizon Cinemas. We are a small family-owned movie theatre company with 5 locations in MD. Each of our locations has 8 or less screens. Since we have limited screens at each location, I am concerned this bill will financially hurt our company. We are just starting to recover from the pandemic after forced closures in 2020 and 2021, and attendance is still about 50% below pre-pandemic levels. Forcing us to program multiple open caption shows will create another challenge to overcome in our efforts to stay in business.

Currently, we are accommodating the needs of our hearing-impaired customers in a number of ways. As required by law, we provide headsets and/or open caption devices (which mount on the seats) upon request. In addition, we allow customers to request on-screen open captions via our website: <https://horizoncinemas.com/about--contact>

On average, we only receive one or two on-screen open caption requests per week, for all our locations combined. We promptly respond to these requests, program the open caption show as close to the requested time as possible, and update the website so that the showtime is labeled "w/Open Captions." Typically, ticket sales for these shows are very low since most of our customers do not want/need the captions. In fact, we have received negative feedback and demands for refunds from customers who were unhappy the screening was open-captioned, even though it was clearly labeled that way on the website and theatre signage.

Our current system has worked well for our customers and in fact, we were recognized by Anne Arundel County a few years ago for our efforts to provide on-screen open captions to our customers.

As written, the bill would require at least two open captioned shows per film each week, after the first week. This one-size-fits-all mandate would not take into consideration the availability of our customers to attend these shows, so we would still have to offer open captions on demand.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guest requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all legislated mandate that will impede our recovery from the pandemic.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Wienholt", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Wienholt - VP



Testimony of Bobby Fiandra/ Regal Cinemas in OPPOSITION To House Bill 1238 - Places of Public
Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
POSITION: Oppose

Good afternoon Chairman Smith and members of the committee. My name is Bobby Fiandra, I am a District Manager for Regal Cinemas overseeing operations in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Regal Cinemas operates 13 theatres and 187 screens in Maryland. We respectfully oppose Bill 1238.

As you are aware the pandemic significantly impacted our business. Movie theatres were among the last to reopen. During the twelve months we were closed, our company incurred heavy fixed costs, such as rent and utilities, which dramatically compounded our losses. The effects of the pandemic are still impacting our business today. Audiences of all types, including the hearing-impaired community, have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, we have found ourselves having to make operational sacrifices including curtailing hours of business.

As a company, serving all audiences is integral to our financial success. We feature a diverse array of film product ranging from blockbuster movies to independent films as well as foreign features. Our intention is to appeal to as wide of an audience as possible and this includes members of the Deaf and hearing-impaired community.

All of our Maryland sites currently play Open Caption titles upon guest request. We believe that listening and responding to our guests in the market is what allows us to best serve the community and meet business needs. We feel that collaboration rather than legislation is the best approach.

Although we feature Open Caption shows daily at some of our Maryland locations; the occupancy for these performances has been very low. The majority of our theatre going audience is not interested in performances with subtitles and will typically avoid captioned performances all together. In many cases, guests request a refund after attending as they find the captioning to be distracting. Mandating open caption performance counts would have a negative financial impact on our business at a time when we're still recovering from Covid related losses.

In addition to proactively providing Open Caption performances based on demand, we also offer several technologies along with private rentals to further accommodate our guests. All of our locations are equipped with Assisted Listening headphones to amplify the audio and Closed Captioning headsets to allow guests to see captions in their field of view without affecting other moviegoers. Additionally, our Private Watch Party program allows guests, even in small groups, to rent an entire auditorium to watch a movie of their choice.

To summarize, our intention is to enable as many people to patronize our cinemas as possible. It is in our best interest to engage and accommodate our Deaf and Hearing-impaired guests but mandating open captioning across the board will limit flexibility and cause further harm to our recovering business.



Executive Offices:

231 W. Cherry Hill Ct., P.O. Box 1056
Reisterstown, MD 21136-7056
Telephone 410-526-4774
Fax 410-526-6871

HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 5, 2022

Position: Unfavorable

My name is David Phillips and I am the Chief Operating Officer of RC Theatres. R/C Theatres is a small 3rd generation family owned Maryland Company. It was started in the 1920's with the Leader Theatre in Baltimore and is presently owned by the founder's grandson, Scott R. Cohen. R/C maintains its corporate office in Maryland, employees over 100 Marylanders and operates theatres in Westminster, Arbutus and California MD.

I am concerned that this bill will be detrimental to our business and does not reflect the programming demand of our consumers. Recently an open caption trailer was accidentally scheduled on one of our films, sending someone out to the lobby asking if there was something wrong with the presentation; not wanting or expecting subtitles on the screen. Even with best efforts to inform our guests, we worry that open caption shows will result in negative experiences and stifled ticket sales.

As written, the bill would require at least two open caption shows per film each week. This one-size-fits-all mandate would not reflect the demand for open captioning at our Maryland theatres; and would prove challenging to schedule for films held over for just a show or two per day, as well as specialty programs that may play only once or twice in any given week.. If this bill passes, I fear it will hurt our recovery through lower attendance, a decline in ticket sales, and negative customer feedback.

We appreciate and welcome our deaf and hard of hearing patrons, and already provide closed captioning devices that give these guests the opportunity to attend any movie, at any time. In addition, we are able to schedule open caption shows upon request through the Accessibility page on our website (<https://www.rctheatres.com/page?id=12302>). As a company, in our many years of operation in Maryland, we have received so few requests they could be counted on one hand.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guest requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all legislated mandate that will seriously impact ticket sales and impede our recovery.

Respectfully,

David Phillips, COO



April 4, 2022

**RE: HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses –
Captioning
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
Position: Unfavorable**

Dear Chairman Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

My family owns and operates The Charles Theatre in Baltimore, and, respectfully, I am writing to ask that you oppose HB 1238 - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning. As written, the bill would require at least two open-captioned shows per film each week, after the film's first play week.

This one-size-fits-all mandate is problematic because not all cinemas offer the same programming. The legislation would (1) prove challenging logistically for many of the titles we offer our patrons, potentially eliminating certain programming altogether, and (2) does not reflect the demand for open-captioning in Baltimore.

Our theater screens independent films and revival films. With independent films, there may be only one or two shows scheduled per day. And the "revival" films are offered on an even less frequent basis, at times only once or twice in a given week. Note that the number of screenings offered for a title in any week is based on expected attendance. For more obscure programming, there might be only one screening in a week.

Thus, a requirement to screen at least two open-captioned shows of every film every week would potentially eliminate programming a film that would receive only one showtime in a week.

To be sure, we appreciate and welcome our deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We provide closed-captioning devices that give deaf and hard-of-hearing guests the opportunity to attend any movie, at any time. The devices are utilized approximately once or twice per month.

We have good relationships with our deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We are able to schedule open-caption shows upon advanced request, and we did so, for example, this past February for screenings of BELFAST.



Anecdotally, last August I met with Jacob Leffler of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf ("BCAD"). Mr. Leffler had inquired about a fundraising opportunity at our theatre for BCAD in connection with the release of the movie CODA. Attached is my email exchange with Mr. Leffler.

In support of the BCAD's efforts, we offered at no charge use of our lobby so that BCAD could present promotional materials to the theater's customers and invite them to sign up on BCAD's mailing list. The BCAD held its event on August 20, 2021.

In the days leading up to BCAD's event, I met with members of the BCAD, including Mr. Leffler, to show them the lobby space. At that time, Mr. Leffler posed the question whether the theater would consider screening open-caption shows. I responded, yes, and invited BCAD to let us know of any titles in which they had interest. I have not received any further inquiries from either BCAD or Mr. Leffler about open-caption programming.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guests' requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, which does not, in fact, fit. Know that this legislation would impact programming choices, ultimately eliminating some programming altogether.

We, therefore, ask that you vote unfavorable on HB 1238. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Lyon", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christopher J. Lyon

Enclosure



HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses - Captioning
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
Position: Unfavorable

On behalf of Mid-Atlantic NATO, a regional affiliate of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), representing movie theatres throughout Maryland, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to HB 1238.

Maryland’s movie theaters are committed to access for the deaf and hard of hearing. For over 25 years, the movie theater industry has collaborated with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to achieve access to all feature films at all times.

Moviegoers in Maryland seeking captions have the flexibility to view a movie with captions at any showtime, on any day. In 2016, the Department of Justice issued a final rule requiring digital movie theaters to provide closed movie captioning equipment. The DOJ adopted the majority of recommendations set forth in an agreement between the National Association of Theatre Owners and major advocacy groups, including the Hearing Loss Association of America and the National Association of the Deaf. Through these collaborative efforts, today, digital movie theaters in Maryland offer closed movie captioning devices (allowing text to be viewable by an individual moviegoer) that can be used at any show time for any movie that comes with closed movie captions.

Movie theaters in Maryland already work with their local communities to enhance existing access by scheduling open movie captioned shows on a regular basis. In addition to closed captioning offerings, where the demand for open captioned (text on the screen viewable by all moviegoers) showtimes exists, movie theaters in Maryland work with their deaf and hard of hearing patrons to develop market appropriate programming and accommodations. A listing of current open movie captioning programs being offered throughout the state is included with this testimony.

Lawmakers should allow the industry to respond to the marketplace instead of passing a “one-size-fits-all” statewide mandate. Our records indicate that the mandate set forth in HB 1238 would apply to 49 movie theater locations across the state where owners operate at least two locations. The bill would require these locations to provide open captioning twice per week per film, after the first week, for almost every movie played, regardless of local demographics. Based on the 524-screen count across these 49 locations, we estimate this bill would require approximately 900 open captioned shows per week, 46,800 open captioned showtimes per year.

Historically, the industry has found that when open-captioned shows are mandated, instead of scheduled based on customer demand, theaters see a significant drop in attendance. Despite assertions to the contrary, attendance data demonstrates that open caption showtimes have a very small turnout due to limited consumer demand.

Movie theaters were devastated by the pandemic and are struggling to recover. Despite slight gains over 2020 attendance numbers when theatres were shuttered for most of the year, box office admissions in



Maryland were still 64.8% lower in 2021 than they were in 2019. Even with the most recent blockbuster release making national headlines in March of 2022, our Maryland theatres were still more than 50% lower than pre-pandemic levels. It will likely take years to recover their losses, and the open captioning mandate outlined in HB 1238 would further reduce theater attendance at a critical time for movie theaters' recovery. Since movie theaters are already 100% accessible and offer enhanced access with open movie caption showtimes, we believe this legislation to be unnecessary and potentially harmful to a theater's financial viability.

HB 1238 also has technical issues within the language of the bill that could have unintended consequences on how the rule would be applied to Maryland movie theaters. While house lawmakers have described the bill as being based on prior legislation from Hawaii (the only state with a captioning law, with far fewer theater owners covered), Maryland's definition of "closed captioning" in motion picture theaters is misplaced, the use of the word "houses" to describe covered locations is ambiguous, and the reference to provide "open captioning" for films produced and offered with "closed captioning" is inherently incorrect.

In its 2016 ruling, the Department of Justice (DOJ) intentionally used the terms "open movie captioning" and "closed movie captioning" instead of "closed captioning" so as not to confuse viewers and readers with the terms used in the context of television captioning, whereby a viewer at home is able to activate the "hidden" captions with the selection on a remote control, thereby making the captions visible to all by choice. Captioning on television cannot be viewed with the same assistive technology as used in a movie theater, and captioning on a movie screen cannot be accomplished with the same assistive technology as on a television.

Not all films play full-week schedules. As written, HB 1238 would require open captioning twice per week for each motion picture it screens, without allowance for special event films that may only play once per week, or once per day. In addition, many films in subsequent weeks after the first few weeks will be held over for just a show or two per day, and may end mid-week to allow space to open a new motion picture.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB 1238.

For further information, please contact Jenna Massoni (410-935-1470, jmassoni@cgagroup.com) or Ellen Valentino (410-693-2226, evalentino@cgagroup.com) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443.895.1446, doug@midatlanticnato.com).



Open Movie Captioning Programs Maryland Movie Theaters April 2022

Introduction

Mid-Atlantic NATO (Maryland) and the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) appreciate the opportunity to work with advocates, state and local governments, and theaters of every size to increase access for individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. While all digital theaters are currently accessible to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, NATO members understand consumer desire for access options and are committed to expanding access by the creation and implementation of pilot open movie captioning programming. NATO members are eager to partner with advocacy organizations to promote these showtimes to moviegoers.

In addition to open movie caption programs in Maryland and across the country, NATO members will continue to offer the use of closed movie captioning devices and make these individual devices available at every movie, at every showtime in accordance with the exhibition industry's agreement with the Department of Justice. Staff will continue to be trained on the preparation and use of the devices. NATO is also developing additional training material for its members on proper maintenance of closed movie captioning devices and systems.

This memo outlines select open movie captioning programs currently happening in Maryland theaters, but should not be considered complete, as all locations are scheduling additional open captioned showtimes on a theater-by-theater basis in response to guest requests.

AMC Theatres

AMC has a nationwide program with 260 locations currently offering showtimes with open captions. The following Maryland locations are participating in this program:

- AMC Rio Cinemas 18 – Gaithersburg
- AMC Owings Mills 17 – Owings Mills
- AMC White Marsh 16 – Baltimore
- AMC Montgomery 16 – Bethesda
- AMC Columbia Mall 14 – Columbia
- AMC MJ Capital Center 12 – Largo
- AMC Wheaton Mall 9 – Wheaton

For all week-one wide release titles with open captions available, open caption showtimes are scheduled for at least one weekend matinee time and one weekday evening. For all blockbuster titles, theaters will play one show per day in its first full week of release, followed by a second week of one weekend matinee and one weekday prime show.



Cinemark Theatres

Cinemark operates two locations in Maryland, and will offer open captioned showtimes on all films that have a full, daily show schedule as follows:

- Cinemark Egyptian 24 – Hanover – Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.
- Cinemark Towson 15 – Towson – Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings.

Fox Theatres

Fox Theatres Sun & Surf 8 in Ocean City is playing one new or recently released movie in open caption twice per week at 3pm on Sundays and Wednesdays. Listed on their website at <https://www.foxshowtimes.com/page?id=15700>.

Hoyt's

Hoyt's West Nursery Cinema 14 in Linthicum is playing one open caption show daily, random movies and times as listed on their website at <https://www.westnurserycinemas.com/showtimes>.

RC Theatres

RC will schedule open caption shows upon advanced request through the accessibility page on their website at <https://www.rctheatres.com/page?id=12302>. Participating locations include:

- R/C Hollywood Cinema 4 - Arbutus
- R/C Lexington Exchange Movies 12 - California
- R/C Westminster 9 - Westminster

Regal Cinemas

Regal has instituted open captioning programs in the following Maryland locations:

- Regal Majestic 20 – Silver Spring
- Regal Westview 16 – Frederick
- Regal Germantown 14 – Germantown
- Regal Snowden Square 14 – Columbia
- Regal Hunt Valley 12 – Hunt Valley
- Regal Laurel Towne Center 12 - Hyattsville

The weekly open captioning lineup features the top three titles per week according to gross. The top-grossing film will play three times a week on a Friday evening, a Sunday matinee, and a Wednesday matinee. The second highest-grossing film in each week will play with open captions during a Saturday matinee and a Tuesday evening. The third film will play in matinee slot on Mondays and Thursdays.



Warehouse Cinemas

Warehouse Cinemas has a long-standing partnership with local deaf and hard of hearing advocates in Frederick, and representatives from the Maryland School for the Deaf. Each week, they work together to select films and showtimes to offer open captioned shows. They have two locations participating as follows:

- Warehouse Cinemas Frederick 10 – Frederick – At least two open caption shows per day on films selected by feedback.
- Warehouse Cinemas Hagerstown 10 – Hagerstown – Four to five open caption shows per week. The number of showtimes will increase with demand and additional film product.

ALL LOCATIONS

Marketing of Open Captioned Films

NATO members are clearly displaying which showtimes offer open captioning in each of their theatres when patrons purchase a ticket on a theatre's website or at the box office.

Open Captioning Programs Framework

NATO members operating in Maryland are committed to continuing voluntary open captioning programs on a theater-by-theater basis. A "one-size-fits-all" approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater or the markets in which they operate. Consequently, theater operators are seeking to develop open captioning programs that meet or exceed the demands of the market in which they operate and have developed varying programs to meet those goals.

The current open movie caption programs will run indefinitely, but no less than at least a year from April 1, 2022. Note, based on consumer feedback and the results of individual companies, the parameters of individual programs may change from time to time to reflect the marketplace.

For further information, please contact Jenna Massoni (410-935-1470, jmassoni@cgagroup.com) or Ellen Valentino (410-693-2226, evalentino@cgagroup.com) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443.895.1446, doug@midatlanticnato.com).



**Statement of Position
National Association of Theatre Owners**

In Opposition to HB 1238: Motion Picture Houses – Captioning

Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Maryland State Assembly

April 5, 2022

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) operating in Maryland, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to HB 1238 - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning.

The exhibition industry is committed to providing access for all patrons attending a motion picture. To achieve this goal, NATO has worked with the federal government, exhibitors, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to provide personal closed captioning devices that ensure equal access for every movie at every showtime. Furthermore, theatres throughout the country, and especially those operating in Maryland, are committed to providing additional options for access by scheduling open-captioned showtimes based on consumer desire and guest feedback. In any given week, there are likely over 150 open captioned shows being offered throughout the state.

As you know, the exhibition industry continues to struggle in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationally, theatres are down more than 50% this year compared to pre-covid numbers. With the extended closure of over a year in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland's theaters have been affected much worse than most areas. As of the end of 2021, Maryland's revenue loss at the box office and concessions was estimated to be well over \$400 million.

Meanwhile, data collected by exhibitors shows that open-captioned showtimes attract fewer guests than non-captioned shows. A mandate such as HB 1238 would further inhibit the industry's recovery in Maryland. Instead, we ask that the exhibitors be allowed to continue developing models for open-captioned programming that fit the needs of the communities where they operate.

A "one-size-fits-all" approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater nor the customers they serve. An open-captioned mandate would not allow theatres to build a flexible framework in which operators and advocates can work together to create market-driven programs that can be adjusted and improved where needed. Through this joint process, movie theaters aim to implement open-captioned programs that meet or exceed the demands of the local market.

For these reasons, NATO respectfully opposes HB 1238: Motion Picture Houses – Captioning. The exhibition industry remains committed to maintaining access for all patrons attending movies and expanding options for their customers based on consumer demand.



OPEN CAPTION MANDATES DO NOT REFLECT THE MARKETPLACE

Overbroad legislation requiring mandatory open captioned showings of films without consideration for economic realities would have a negative impact on the state’s movie theater industry—especially as financially crippled cinemas emerge from the pandemic. Instead, movie theater operators are working to expand access options for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing through consumer-driven programs for films with on-screen subtitles. This is a proven solution as advocates and policymakers in other states have recognized the benefits of pursuing collaborative solutions instead of onerous, inflexible legislation. Additionally, allowing market-driven open caption programs to proceed will enable theatres to continue gathering and evaluating data, and work with stakeholders to pursue the most effective paths forward for motion picture accessibility in the state.

- ⊗ **Build Open Caption Programs.** Put simply, a “one-size-fits-all” approach does not reflect the individualized operations of each theater nor the communities they serve. Instead, it is important to avert rigid legislative mandates by building a flexible framework in which stakeholders work together to create market-driven programs that can be adjusted and improved where needed.
- ⊗ **Collect Data to Improve Access.** Cinemas will continue to collect and share data on the impact of open caption programs.
- ⊗ **Promote Open Caption Films.** Cinemas clearly display which showtimes offer open caption films on company websites and at the box office. Historically, NATO members have partnered with stakeholders to promote open caption programs in communities across the state.
- ⊗ **Improve Closed Caption Moviegoing Experience.** In accordance with NATO’s historic agreement with advocacy groups and the Department of Justice, cinemas will continue to provide closed caption devices for use at every movie showtime. NATO is also developing new staff training resources on proper maintenance and operation of closed caption devices and systems.

Cinemas throughout the country have been tracking open caption programs. Recent data from these efforts show little to no attendance at open caption shows in key industry markets, and even lower attendance where open caption shows have been mandated.



4.14 Tickets

Average Attendance Per Open Captioned Show Regal Cinemas Hawaii Statewide (Mandate by Law)
Locations: 8
1,191 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 95.44%
(11/5/21 – 3/20/22)



5.18 Tickets

Average Attendance Per Open Captioned Show Regal Cinemas Colorado (Test Market)
Locations: 5
1,108 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 95.83%
(11/5/21 – 3/20/22)



8.9 Tickets

Average Attendance Per Open Captioned Show Cinemark Colorado (Test Market)
Locations: 8
4,170 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 91.2%
(6/12/21 – 12/31/22)



12 Tickets

Average Attendance Per Open Captioned Show AMC Theatres New York City DMA (Top USA Market)
Locations: 16
914 Open Caption Shows
Seats Unsold: 94.2%
(10/1/21 – 11/14/21)

Horizon Cinemas testimony HB 1238.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Wienholt

Position: UNF



HB 1238 – Places of Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Captioning
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 5, 2022
Position: Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1238 - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning.

My name is Thomas Wienholt, and I am the Vice President of Horizon Cinemas. We are a small family-owned movie theatre company with 5 locations in MD. Each of our locations has 8 or less screens. Since we have limited screens at each location, I am concerned this bill will financially hurt our company. We are just starting to recover from the pandemic after forced closures in 2020 and 2021, and attendance is still about 50% below pre-pandemic levels. Forcing us to program multiple open caption shows will create another challenge to overcome in our efforts to stay in business.

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Our current system has worked well for our customers and in fact, we were recognized by Anne Arundel County a few years ago for our efforts to provide on-screen open captions to our customers.

As written, the bill would require at least two open captioned shows per film each week, after the first week. This one-size-fits-all mandate would not take into consideration the availability of our customers to attend these shows, so we would still have to offer open captions on demand.

Please continue to give us the flexibility to respond to our guest requests and market demands, rather than a one-size-fits-all legislated mandate that will impede our recovery from the pandemic.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Wienholt", written in a cursive style.

Thomas Wienholt - VP