

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