

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  
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