

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
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