

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