

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
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