

April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Giovanni Saravia 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 My mother has been hard of hearing her whole life, with her hearing slowly getting worse over time. Open captions allow her to get the same experience as other abled people at movie theaters. Headphones don't work and the caption machines often won't display text sometimes, be behind, or just not work. Open captions enable all dialogue to be shown at the correct times and let my mom have a fun time at a movie without having to deal with frustrating peripherals or missing parts of the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 1238.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Saravia
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