April 5, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Finkelstein 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 have been completely dependent on captioning for at least eight years. I have encountered every problem with the eyeglass and Gooseneck devices that purportedly provide captions for me in movie theaters. I have had the battery die during a movie. I have had the captions appear from the movie in a different theater and not the one I was supposed to see. I have been given glasses for the blind which provide narration of what you see on the screen but of course not the sound track which a hard of hearing person needs. The hard of hearing and deaf Desperately need open captions so that we have what is truly equal access to movies. Please enact this bill.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Finkelstein
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