



February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

The Prince George's County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD) in Maryland would like to voice our strong support for HB 264. The legislation of HB 264 as currently written will help make Maryland a fair and more inclusive place by helping to ensure that deaf community attend the movie theaters that have equal access to open captioning service and have an enjoyable experience.

The key of this bill is to promote accessibility and ensure there are no barriers for everyone in the deaf community. Everyone knows that something must be done. Waiting any longer will only result in blocking access in movie theaters. We all must accept the obvious solution. Open captioning service at movie theaters is a simple solution for the deaf community.

In addition to moviegoers who are deaf and hard of hearing, open captioning benefits almost everyone, especially people watching movies in their non-native language, and children and adults learning to read. It's more important than ever that movies be inclusive for all.

We appreciate your attention to matters which have a direct bearing on the movie theaters industry.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis
President
PGCAD2020@gmail.com