
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF EQUITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

DANA P. MOORE, Chief Equity Officer and Director
7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

February 3, 2023

Subject: Endorsement of HB 264 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

To: Economic Matters Committee

Dear Chair Wilson,

The Baltimore City **Mayor's Commission on Disabilities** is a dedicated organization established with the goal of promoting accessibility and equality for individuals with disabilities. As part of our mission, we closely evaluate programs and services for individuals with disabilities and make recommendations for legislative solutions to improve their accessibility.

In light of this, the Commission wholeheartedly endorses HB 264, sponsored by Delegate Bhandari, which requires movie theaters to provide open captioning for two days a week. The provision of open captioning has numerous benefits, including increasing accessibility for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, as well as those who are learning English or reading. Additionally, the measure provides support for those with late hearing loss.

We respectfully request a favorable report of HB 264.

Very truly yours,

Aloma Bouma

Aloma Bouma, Chair
The Baltimore City Mayor's Commission
on Disabilities

cc: February 8, 2023 Economic Matters Committee Hearing