



Dear Representative,

As CEO of Maryland Works, an organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities, I am writing to express my support for HB264, a bill that would require all places of public accommodation that are motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and requiring that a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases at least two motion picture houses in the State to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week. Only delivering video products with closed captions places responsibility on the user to understand how to turn captions on. So that the user isn't faced with this burden, delivering video products with open captions would:

- Have universal design benefits for people other than those with hearing impairments (e.g., people whose first language is not English; people in noisy airports, health clubs, sports bars)
- Allow more individuals with hearing disabilities to access movie theatres and presentations
- Not require additional translation for speakers who have speech impairments

Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting HB264 and the benefit that it would have on our community for those with and without disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Manzoni'.

Mary Manzoni  
CEO  
Maryland Works