

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jennifer Drew and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two 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 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Drew  
jendrewms@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sharon Duchesneau, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Please require open captions for all movies shown in Maryland. This is the best way to ensure access. Closed captioning devices are awkward, unreliable, and uncomfortable to use.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Sharon Duchesneau  
sharonduchesneau@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gloria Dunham and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Gloria Dunham  
Gdunham15@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Yvonne Dunkle and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Dunkle  
ydunkle@aol.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Andrea Edwards and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Andrea Edwards  
Andrea.edwards@pgcps.org

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gail Edwards and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

I have stopped going to movie theaters because their glasses weren't charged up almost every time at my extreme inconvenience. Open captioning should be mainstreamed anyway; hearing people, especially younger ones, are beginning to turn on and rely on captioning for variety of reasons. This should be the new norm and I can see it already becoming acceptable by the general public.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Gail Edwards  
gailcbsr@aol.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ricky Edwards and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Ricky Edwards  
rickyechef@aol.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is JoAnn Elliott and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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 deaf spouse and I would love to be able to go to the movies without the contraptions for closed captioning in the theaters. The "eyeglasses" hurt your nose and weigh down your own glasses to make it work. Captiview devices aren't without problems either: whether their batteries are charged (or, not,) whether the device neck holds up, whether it can be seen easily by shorter or taller people. The most even-handed solution is to have open captioning-- accessible, easy to locate in theaters, regularly! We would like to be theater-goers again.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Elliott  
Elliott.tilden@gmail.com



February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is SallyAnn Emilius and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

I have many family members and friends in Maryland and I am there all the time. We love movies!!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

SallyAnn Emilius  
sabemils@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Diane Emmanuel and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Diane Emmanuel  
Diane.emman@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Dillip Emmanuel and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Dillip Emmanuel  
dillipmemman@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Hollie Fallstone and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Hollie Fallstone  
hfallstone@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Andrea A. Feldman and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

The first time that I saw captions was watching “One Day at a Time” back in the 1970s and I laughed so hard that I cried. I was able to join my family and friends in laughing at the same TV shows or movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Andrea A. Feldman  
alafeldman@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Roy Fernandes and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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First of all, I've been asking where open-captioned films are all the time. It is not right for me to travel far away to watch captioned films. It would be helpful if all MD movie theaters' movies are captioned without finding one movie at a specific location. Second, open captioned film is more helpful than deaf devices such as sony glasses, captiview, etc which doesn't work obviously according to many viewers. Third, it would help boost the film business if films are captioned because many people, including young generations will attend more than before. Hope this helps.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Roy Fernandes  
royfern@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sherry Arya Fernandes and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

I am deaf and married to my deaf husband. My strong languages are ISL (Indian sign language), Hindi and ASL (American sign language). English is not my strong language so I am learning English in the US which is my permanent home because we live in Maryland permanently. Education is very important to me so I need to read captions on any movie to help me understand English and improve my English skills. I was not happy with deaf devices such as sony glasses since I wear prescribed glasses, captiview (hard to look at the movie at the same time). I prefer open-captioning films.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Sherry Arya Fernandes  
sherryaryafern@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sophia Fernandez and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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This is important to me because people with audio impairments should be able to enjoy theater too, and also those who speak a first language other than English (like my husband, whose first language is Spanish) would be more able to enjoy movies at theaters. Captions, even for the same language spoken in the audio, help ESL folks differentiate the words in settings like a movie where there are a lot of different audio things going on that can obscure words for a non native speaker. It would be good for business too I'd imagine, as we usually watch movies at home so we can use English subtitles and he can enjoy it with me (When movies are in Spanish, I opt for Spanish-speaking subtitles for the same reason). I'm sure there are others like us in Baltimore. This seems like a win win , and I'm hoping to see it so we can more often support our local theaters!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Sophia Fernandez  
sophie.fernandez2005@gmail.com



February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joshua Finkle and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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.

I want to go to the movie theater at any time and be able to see the open captioning on the screen similar to closed captions on my television. I can't go with my hearing family or friends at any time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Joshua Finkle  
jfinkle33@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Naja Leitch Frelich and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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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 family love to go to the movies together but often miss the ones with open captions because they are at times that are inconvenient to us. The closed caption devices are faulty. It would be best to have all movie theaters provide them at all times. By restricting us to see them at certain times and places our access is being restricted. We have a right to full access.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Naja Leitch Frelich  
naja@frelich.us

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sharon Gallaher and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Sharon Gallaher  
sgallaher@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Donald Galloway and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **HB 264 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari, Delegate Andre Johnson Jr., and Delegate Steve Johnson. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Donald Galloway  
Dgalloway14@yahoo.com