

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sonja Lasry 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.

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,

Sonja Lasry  
Sonjalinth@msn.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lauren, 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.

It will be more pleasure to watch a film with open captioning without worrying about having something on my face to read or from a cup holder in the arm of a chair to read the closed captioning. Please give us an opportunity to watch and enjoy like others.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren  
llynchryan@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alec Lawson 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.

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

Sincerely,

Alec Lawson  
a.jon.lowson@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tonya Lee and I am Deaf. 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,

Tonya Lee  
tonya.josie.lee@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jacob Leffler and I am Deaf. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jacob Leffler  
Jleffler24@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Yumeng Li 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 add an open captioning for all deaf people as well as hearing like captions, too.

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

Sincerely,

Yumeng Li  
yumeng8817@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is James M. Lindsay 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.

Open Caption is my hear!

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

Sincerely,

James M. Lindsay  
lindsayagk@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Neysy Lopez-Matta and I am Hard of 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.

The reason why I want Open Captioning is because it is not fair hearing people listening and deaf people have a hard time understanding what it means.

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

Sincerely,

Neysy Lopez-Matta  
neysy-lopezmatta@pgcps.org



February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ricardo Lopez 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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Twenty-seven years later since I moved to Maryland, accessibility has still not progressed a lot regarding open captioning in movie theaters.

I was born and raised in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. I never had any problems going to any movie theater with my family and deaf friends because subtitles (accessibility) in Spanish are provided as a standard service any time anywhere. After moving to DC for graduate school and work, I have to wait until my vacation to Puerto Rico and watch films in movie theaters with subtitles. We are in the 21st Century and captioning in movie theaters in Maryland should not be an option but make it a standard service.

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

Sincerely,

Ricardo Lopez  
rilopi@aol.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sylvia Love, and I am Hard of 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,

Sylvia Love  
sylvia.love@pgcps.org

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sally MacDougall 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,

Sally MacDougall  
sallymac08@gmail.com

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 8, 2023

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mark O. Mace 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,

Mark O. Mace  
Mark.Mace@yahoo.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Patricia Ann Mace and I am Hard of Hearing. 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,

Patricia Ann Mace  
PattiLightie@gmail.com

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lee Malatesta and I am Hard of 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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My experience is that I almost never go to the movies because it's always a crapshoot as to whether theaters will have closed captioning devices and - if they do - if those devices will work correctly.

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

Sincerely,

Lee Malatesta  
lee\_malatesta@yahoo.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michelle R. Malta 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.

I work within the deaf and hard of hearing community and see first hand how some of the current assistive technology DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK for consumers! Staff are unaware, not sure how it works, no idea how to resolve a situation. It's always a gamble whether they will have a fun movie experience or free vouchers because they weren't able to get the access. Open captions would make the movie going experience EQUITABLE 100% of the time! Hearing people who say it would negatively impact their movie going experience need to just sit down.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Malta  
michellemalta@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Reem Mansour and I am 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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I have family members who are Deaf and always try to look for fun activities that we can do together. I come from a family filled with movie lovers and find it hard to go to cinemas with my Deaf family members because they don't understand the movie and need assistance. I feel like captions would be a great way to help Deaf individuals feel comfortable to book themselves a relaxing time at the cinema without having to worry about not getting the whole point of the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Reem Mansour  
reem773315@gmail.com



February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amy Markel 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,

Amy Markel  
Amyjoy46@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sean Markel 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,

Scott Recht  
sarecht@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Morgan Marshall 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.

Having Open Captions at the movies makes my life easier and enjoyable to watch the movies.

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

Sincerely,

Morgan Marshall  
morganmarshall20@yahoo.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Barbara Martin 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Barbara Martin  
Bjmartin626@gmail.com