Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Heidi Burghardt 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.

I am so sick and tired of being treated like a 2nd citizen. Here's the quote that I couldn't have said any better:

"Deaf people requesting captions is equivalent to hearing people requesting audio."

Imagine being denied access to audio every time, everywhere and every day."

~ L. Friedmann ~

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Burghardt HABurghardt@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Stacy Lynn Burvant 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.

Please add captions to all movies for inclusion of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people.

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

Sincerely,

Stacy Lynn Burvant sburvant@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brandie Callender and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore 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,

Brandie Callender brpomplon@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Susan Carlin, 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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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, with the help of Disability Rights of Maryland and the MD Governor's office of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing services worked with Baltimore City Mayor's office and Charmtv.com to caption all programming closed captioned. All virtual medium providers should make programming accessible to everyone including Deaf and Hard-of-hearing people.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Carlin suecarli.61@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Carragher and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore 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, Karen Carragher carragherkaren@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Daniel Catinguil 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,

Daniel Catinguil

Daniel.catinguil@pgcps.org

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rich Ceruolo 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.

I support a more inclusive environment for all persons living with disabilities, in all of life's many theatres. Inclusion and full participation in life is not optional and therefore all Maryland citizens should be included in all work, recreation, medical, legal and legislative settings and venues.

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

Sincerely,

Rich Ceruolo richceruolo@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is David Chidlow 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.

It's easy and educational for all to read the open caption and save money not to buy electronic devices or glasses to read closed captioning. Open captions will bring everyone to watch movies for better business.

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

Sincerely,

David Chidlow chidcabe@gmail.com

February 8, 2023

Economic Matters Committee State Capitol Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Harold M. Clapp 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.

Be able to watch a movie whenever I am up to it at any time instead of looking at which movie with Open Captioning available at a certain time.

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

Sincerely,

Harold M. Clapp hmclapp7@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Emmanuel Clifton 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,

Emmanuel Clifton Emmnauel1-taylor@pgcps.org

February 8, 2023

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marissa Clopper 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,

Marissa Clopper marissa.clopper@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Yael Coburn and I am Hearing. 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'm a parent of a hard of hearing son.

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

Sincerely,

Yael Coburn yael.isaac@hotmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joyce Cohen-Scher and I am Hearing. 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.

My husband is Deaf and it would be nice if we could have the same opportunity to enjoy a movie together.

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

Sincerely,

Joyce Cohen-Scher joycecohenscher@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michelle Kanter Cohen and I am Hearing. 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.

One of my parents, who is moving to Maryland later this year, is hard of hearing and can only enjoy films when there is captioning available. This bill would allow us to enjoy movies together. Without captions, movies aren't an activity that we can attend as a family, because it's very frustrating and disappointing not to be able to understand what's going on in a movie.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Kanter Cohen michellek23@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Steven Cole, 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.

We can watch it on the screen instead of wearing glasses for the closed caption which causes headache to use glasses and weighing heavy on my nose.

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

Sincerely,

Steven Cole smcole52@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Déborah E. Colón-Martin 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,

Déborah E. Colón-Martin decm417@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Meghan Conaghan 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.

Let's have open captioning movies so Deaf people enjoy the movie like hearing people.

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

Sincerely,

Meghan Conaghan mjconaghan8@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rachel Birr Cordova 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.

I became hard of hearing this year because of brain tumors. I have gone on multiple occasions to watch movies with open captions. The closed caption glasses are bulky and uncomfortable. Open captions help me and my spouse, for whom English is a second language. Open captions hurt no one.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Birr Cordova Rachelbirrcordova@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karina Cromwell and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore 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 frequently go to a movie theater with caption goggles that did not work. I had to go back to customer service to exchange for different caption goggles. I ended up missing the beginning of the movie and on one occasion, I missed the whole movie because the goggles did not work for that specific movie. My husband is hearing, so he stayed and watched the movie with my son who is also hearing. I had to sit in the lobby and wait for the movie to end to head home with my family. The caption goggles are more often than not unreliable. I also do not like the attention that it attracts from other people in the movie theater. I wear eyeglasses, so the caption goggles feel uncomfortable on top of my eyeglasses. I want to watch a movie like a normal person with my hearing husband.

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

Sincerely,

Karina Cromwell karinainmd@gmail.com

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Tabatha Croney, and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll 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 a lot of Deaf/HOH friends, family and everything in between. Being able to go to the movie theatre with them is something I've cherished since I was very young. Going with them hasn't always been the best experience. There have been multiple times where we go and the captioned devices don't work, they don't fit, and they're big and bulky. Open captioning allows for our community of hearing people to come together with Deaf/HOH people and celebrate, enjoy and cherish times together that we wouldn't normally have. Please, I beg for open captions!!

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

Sincerely,

Tabatha Croney tabathacroney@yahoo.com