

Scott's Testimony

Hello, my name is Scott Clark, and I am the proud parent of a Deaf 11-year-old named Sarah. She is an amazing child, and I could go on at length about the profound ways in which she has changed me and the world around her, but that's not why we're here. I could explain that learning a new language, ASL, to raise and communicate with my daughter is one of the least difficult and most rewarding things I've had to learn as a parent. But, we're here because my daughter and I love going to the movies. She loves the popcorn, and the candy and soda that her mother wishes I wouldn't buy, the big spectacle of it all and the time we spend together. I love how much she learns and grows from the stories she sees, and talking to her about them afterwards. She's an avid reader, but this is something different. All that being said, if you could have seen look on her face when we went a couple months ago to see *Strange World* and the captions weren't on, you wouldn't have any question about this bill. The theater workers were as sympathetic as could be as they gave us gift vouchers and apologies, and my daughter sat quietly but politely fuming. But the look of disappointment on her face had all of us nearly in tears. She'd been waiting for weeks to see this movie (don't ask me why, it didn't look that good to me) and now she had to wait another week, and HOPE they could reschedule another showing and that the captions worked this time. This is NOT THE FIRST TIME this has happened. And I'll let her explain why the Closed Caption devices are not adequate, she is very convincing on that subject. The movies have helped teach my daughter that she can change the world. I will let her tell you how she'd like you to help her do that. One other thing, I really need the captions, too. The older I get, the more I appreciate them. Thank you.

Sarah's Testimony

Hello! My name is Sarah Clark. My name sign is (bird). I am Deaf, and 11 years old, almost 12 in the end of March. I go to Maryland School for the Deaf. I have an amazing hearing family, including my Papa and Mom! I love cheerleading and reading and going to the movies. But, sometimes, there's one reason that barriers me from going to the movies, and that reason is Closed Captions. Closed Captions is when you don't have captions during a movie showing, Open Captions is when you do. Closed Captions is unfair for Deaf people, and people who may have a harder time hearing. Sometimes they will give you tools, such as bulky glasses and a holding thing that you have to hold for the entire time. Mind me, but I don't wanna hold something for 90 minutes or more! I'm sure y'all are familiar with the famous Deaf actor, Marlee Matlin. A month or two ago, she found herself walking out of a movie showing, because it didn't have captions. The same thing happened to me and my dad a few months ago. We were going to see Strange World, and when my dad bought the tickets, it said the movie had Open Captions, and we was really excited. We went, and went in the movie theater. Once it started, we realized the captions weren't there. We went to talk to the employees, they said that they made a mistake it wasn't actually OC! But they asked if we could go back in and see if the captions started. It didn't. They refunded us, and gave us free tickets and free popcorn for next time, but I was really sad and mad. I was trying to not just yell at them to improve. I was furious, and my dad and I was on the verge of tears. Also, a few years ago, my old friend and me and my mom and my old friends mom went to the movies for a fun day, we were about 8. We got turned away

for the same reason. I really do think Open Captions can really benefit us all. Let stand for Open Captions. Thank you for listening. Bye.