Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lizabeth Katz, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 and my two deaf children greatly benefited by watching the captions in the movies but only if they are set up which is inconvenient. Watching with open captions can greatly increase chances for people to understand and learn what is going on. Also when the captions are set up in the open both deaf and hearing people of all languages can benefit from watching the captions. Thank you for the support to make this happen.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely, Lizabeth Katz lkatz96@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brenda Kelly-Frey and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

Captions are not just for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. Our grandkids watch TV programs with captions on all the time. I believe this has helped them to be well above their grade levels for reading.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400

Sincerely,

Brenda Kelly-Frey brendacfrey@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Arlene B. Kelly, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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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EQUAL ACCESS for ALL!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely, Arlene B. Kelly arlenedst@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shari Kido, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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.

To have equity is to meet our needs as others and not lessen to enjoy the movie theatre at anytime! Open captions are ease to read on the screen rather than using awkward device and time consuming to level out.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shari Kido skido4asl@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sagar Kothari, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 provide on-screen open-captioning accessibility for all Marylanders!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sagar Kothari oceantetra@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Smita Kothari, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 was hard to read the closed captions at the theater so it's my wish is to always have open captions in all movie theaters. At some theaters the open captions are available at night which is unfair to us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Smita Kothari oceanpeacock2810@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sonja Lasry, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sonja Lasry Sonjalinth@msn.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alec Lawson and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Alec Lawson a.jon.lowson@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tonya Lee tonya.josie.lee@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jacob Leffler and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Jacob Leffler Jleffler24@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Yumeng Li, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Yumeng Li yumeng8817@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Gregurich Lindley, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 attended movies where I received a captioning device only to find out it is (and subsequently other available ones) not working. Since I cannot understand any movies without a device, I have to obtain a refund and leave the movie or wait until the next one to see if they work. That is not conducive on my part because I often have other plans afterwards. There have been situations where I have had to leave and come back because my hearing family or friends stayed to watch the movie I could not so they could be picked up.

Hearing people, on the other hand, do not have to worry about not being able to watch a movie at a convenient time. They simply can go and expect to have a great time.

I hope this bill will pass - I have had to leave about 10 movies in the last few years and I don't even go that often because it can be a hassle wondering if the device will work. It'd be wonderful to just go and see it open captioned - that way, the theater can see (and ensure) that it is working for everyone who goes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely, Amy Gregurich Lindley amyglindley3@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is James M. Lindsay, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

James M. Lindsay lindsayagk@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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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The reason why I want Open Capiton 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Neysy Lopez-Matta neysy-lopezmatta@pgcps.org

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ricardo Lopez, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 have passed since I moved to Maryland and still not a lot of progress 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 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 time to go to PR 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 a standard service.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely, Robert Lopez rilopi@aol.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Love sylvia.love@pgcps.org

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Laureen Lynch, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 pleasurable to watch a film with open captioning without worrying about having anything on my face to read or on an armchair 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 SB 400.

Sincerely, Laureen Lynch llynchryan@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sally MacDougall, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Sally MacDougall sallymac08@gmail.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Mace Mark.Mace@yahoo.com

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill,** sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ann Mace PattiLightie@gmail.com