

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **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 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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Lee Malatesta  
lee\_malatesta@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **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.

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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Malta  
michellemalta@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Reem Mansour, and I am Hearing. 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.

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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Reem Mansour  
reem773315@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Markel and I am Deaf. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Markel  
Amyjoy46@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sean Markel, and I am Deaf. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sean Markel  
seanmarkel8@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **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.

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 SB 400.

Sincerely,

Morgan Marshall  
morganmarshall20@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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 **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,

Barbara Martin  
Bjmartin626@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Robert Martin, and I am Deaf. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Martin  
robertbmartin@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alain Martinos, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington 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.

Always struggle with the closed caption devices.

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

Sincerely,

Alain Martinos  
alainmartinoss1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carla E. Masi, 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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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 love large screen movies and would love to have open captioning to provide for Deaf community as well! Thank you.

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

Sincerely,  
Carla E Masi  
carlaemasi@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maya, 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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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.

While I can access sounds and some speech with my hearing aid, a majority of the time speech sounds like a foreign language. I rely heavily on captions so I can laugh and cry at the same time as hearing people. I pay the same price yet I have to sit in the theater wondering and guessing what was said. Due to this, I have not gone to the theater in years!!! Ask yourself is this equitable and fair??

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

Sincerely,

Maya  
MYgreentea68@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tyler Milstein McCafferty, 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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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,

Tyler Milstein McCafferty  
ty.mccafferty@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Bridget McCarthy and I am Deaf. 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.

Having open captioning in the movies will enhance the quality of family time for me and my hearing children. It always had been frustrating to come only to find out the captions were not working or the device that I had to use didn't work well - this ruined the family fun. I feel that open captioning will bring a peace of mind for all of us involved and also, it will reduce the hassle for the employees to scramble to find devices or trying to make the captions working.

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

Sincerely,

Bridget McCarthy  
Bridget3mccarthy@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Candace McCullough, 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 make movies accessible to Deaf people using open captioning in all theaters all the time. Other devices for closed captioning aren't adequately accessible.

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

Sincerely,

Candace McCullough  
mcculloughphd@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Diana McCullough, 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.

I need to understand what the actors are saying on the movie screen.

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

Sincerely,

Diana McCullough  
mcculloughdiana@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelly McCully, 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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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.

As a Deaf person, I stopped going to the movie theaters because oftentimes, the captioning devices do not work. Waste of my money.

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

Sincerely,  
Shelly McCully  
shelly.mccully@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jimmy Lee Meadows 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jimmy Lee Meadows  
Mooeyturk1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cindy Meadows, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert 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.

I'm near-sighted and use reading glasses (I'm over 50 years old) and cannot use cup-holder captions because I can't read them - I have to wear reading glasses and blurry on motion pictures. It's frustrating. Open-captions in motion pictures work remarkably for my entertainment moment. My hearing children said they love to read captions because about one fourth of the time they didn't hear some words being said - captions help them to hear specific words. I'm in favor of having open-captions movies - specific times, one night during the week and one or two times on Saturday/Sunday.

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Meadows  
annajoeymom@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amanda Mercer and I am 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.

I work with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in Prince George's County Public Schools and know that they have the right to have accessibility. Open captions would do just that.

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Mercer  
Amanda.Mercer@pgcps.org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kelsey Mitchell, and I am 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,

Kelsey Mitchell  
kemomi@gmail.com