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Jan 25th 2024

Committee: Maryland Senate - Judicial Proceedings & Maryland House - Economic Matters
Bill No : SB 92 & HB 426
Bill Title: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Open Captioning
Position: Support

I, Clement So, Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association (MADA) Team Leader wanted to support invaluable and esteemed three MADA team members - Elaine Estrella, Sunsang Lee, and Min Cho whom all of them are based and living in Maryland as witness to support to have Open Captions (OC) accessible to all Marylanders Deaf Residents - SB 92 & HB 426.

MADA is a non-profit organization with 501c3 whose mission was to improve the livelihood of the Asian Deaf Community wherever the team members are residing at. We have covered the Greater New York Metropolitan Area and other areas such as Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia, and Boston Area. Elaine Estrella of Montgomery County, Sunsang Lee of Prince George County, and Min Cho of Montgomery County are part of Maryland and we feel and we are responsible to cover and support them to help and voice for the interest of any Asians living in the great State of Maryland.

Earlier, we hosted the Deaf Senior Citizens Focus Group in Montgomery County on Jan 21st 2024 at Gaithersburg Public Library and at least 25 residents of Maryland Senior Citizens attended the event. The purpose of the event was to gather all the pressing issues they faced in daily life, especially they spend most of their time in Maryland to bring to National Asian Deaf Congress / Deaf Asian Senior Citizen Conference which will be held in New York City on Aug 23-24 2024 to find key people to address the ongoing concerns. Hence, open captions were one of the pressing issues for them as well.

I have attached the evidence of what was documented at the Deaf Asian Senior Citizens Focus Group (Exhibit A). I am attaching the flyers as well (Exhibit B). Also, I can testify as a New York City resident that the New York City government has already mandated Open Caption at theaters with reasonable guidelines within New York City jurisdiction.(Exhibit C). Hope this letter serves you well as part of evidence that we hope you heed the concerns of Asian Deaf Residents living in Maryland.

The Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association requested a favorable report on Senate Bill 92 & House Bill 426.

Cordially yours,

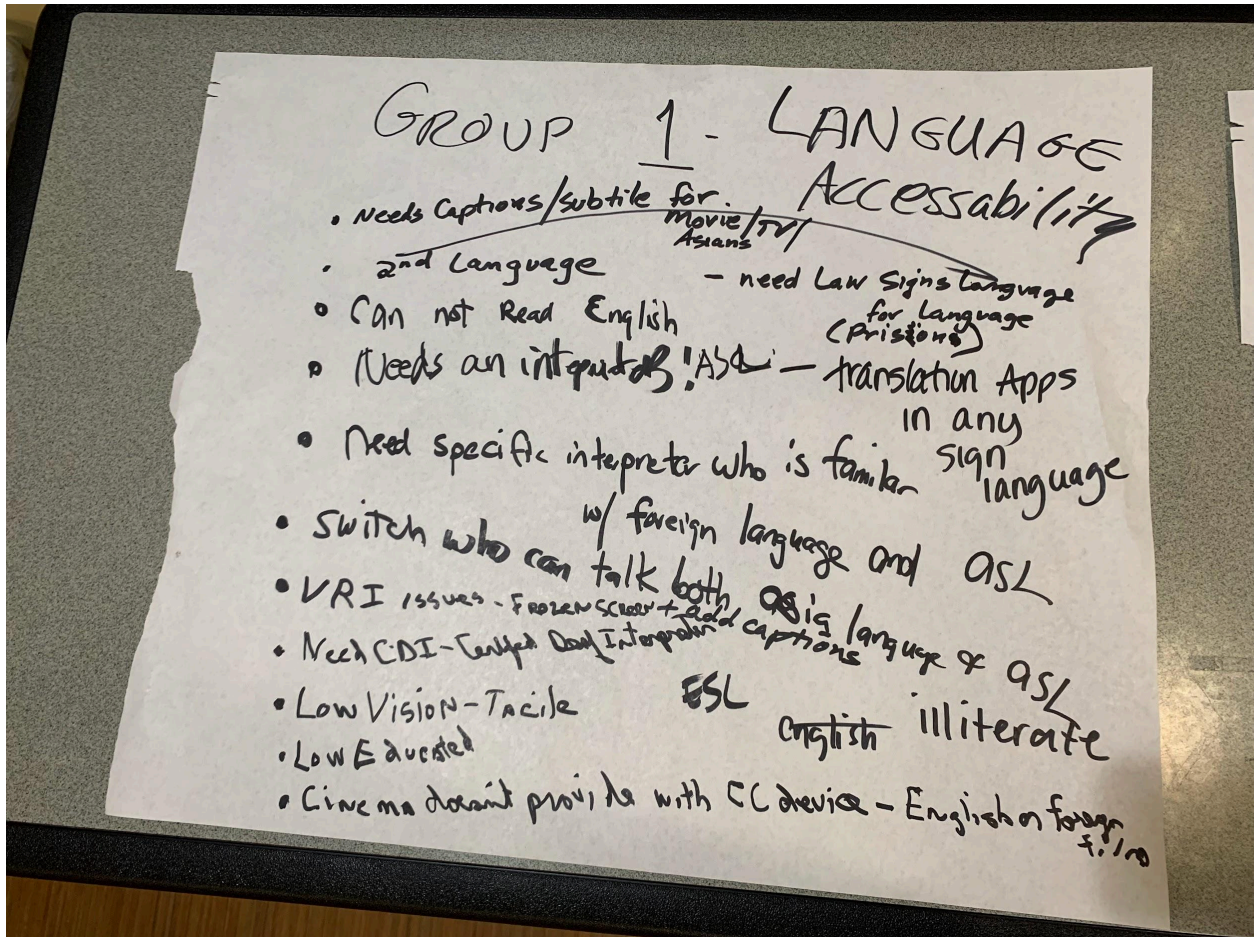
Clement So
Team Leader

Elaine Estrella (Montgomery County, MD)
Team Support

Min Cho (Montgomery County, MD)
Team Publications

Sunsang Lee (Prince George County, MD)
Team Senior Citizens Coordinator

EXHIBIT A



Please see the top left (needs captions subtitle for movie / TV for Asians)

Asian Deaf Seniors 50+ Focus Group



Come and join us to discuss the key issues and gather quality information to prepare for upcoming NADC / Deaf Asian Senior Citizens Conference


- Light Refreshment provided
- Parking and wheelchair accessible
- Limited seating available (First come first serve)

Register for event



 **Sunday, Jan 21, 2024**

 **2PM to 5:30PM**

 **Gaithersburg Library Medium Room 3**
18330 Montgomery Village Ave,
Gaithersburg, MD 20879



Any questions, please email us at
INFO@MADANYC2002.ORG

EXHIBIT C

[https://www.nyc.gov/assets/mome/pdf/Open-Captions-Plain-Language-Guide--2022-05-11--MO
PD.pdf](https://www.nyc.gov/assets/mome/pdf/Open-Captions-Plain-Language-Guide--2022-05-11--MO
PD.pdf)