

January 29, 2024

Shannon Morrison  
President  
Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID)  
Maryland

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Members of the Maryland Senate  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland Senate,

I trust this letter finds you well. My name is Shannon Morrison], and I am honored to serve as the President of the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID). I am writing to express our wholehearted support for the Open Captioning Movie bill that is anticipated to be reintroduced during the 2024 Maryland legislative session.

PCRID, as a local affiliate chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of the sign language interpreting profession in Maryland and Washington, D.C. Our commitment extends to championing the quality, professionalism, and integrity of sign language interpreting, and we recognize the profound impact that improved accessibility can have on these principles.

We wish to commend the Open Captioning Movies Committee (OCMC) for their unwavering efforts in advocating for open captioned options in movie theaters. We firmly believe that the Open Captioning Movie bill aligns with our commitment to equal access for all, particularly benefiting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities. Additionally, we appreciate the bill's potential to positively impact individuals with neurodiverse conditions and those who are English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

PCRID extends its full endorsement to the Open Captioning Movie bill and stands united with OCMC in urging the Maryland Senate to support its passage during the upcoming legislative session. We firmly believe that the implementation of open captions will not only enhance the cinematic experience for a diverse audience but also contribute significantly to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

As an organization deeply committed to supporting initiatives that align with our mission, PCRID is eager to collaborate with OCMC in any capacity that may contribute to the success of the Open Captioning Movie bill. Whether it involves providing valuable feedback, participating in discussions, or exploring potential volunteering opportunities, please consider PCRID as a dedicated partner in advancing this crucial accessibility initiative.

Thank you for your tireless dedication to public service, and we greatly appreciate your consideration of the impact that the Open Captioning Movie bill can have on improving accessibility and inclusion for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Shannon Morrison  
PCRID President