



February 5, 2024

Jacob Leffler
Open Caption Movie Bill Committee

Dear Jacob and Committee Members,

On behalf of myself and of HLAA-Washington State, I'd like to offer my enthusiastic support for Maryland's Open Caption Movie Bill (SB 92).

While a few films are shown with open captions, the majority of movies shown in theaters are not. Some theaters do have caption glasses or other hearing devices, but regrettably, these devices sometimes don't work well, or even at all. So millions of Americans with hearing loss and people who are Deaf are often excluded.

Without captions, I miss a lot of the dialogue in a given movie. This has become an even bigger problem as sound mixes generally now favor sound effects, not the character's speech. As a result, I rarely go to the theater, and I miss out on having a meaningful or fun experience with my friends and family. So do tens of thousands of others who like me, require captions to make the motion picture experience accessible and worthwhile.

As people have grown accustomed to captions on YouTube and TikTok videos, open-captioned movies are becoming more and accepted—and even wanted, in fact.

I encourage the Maryland Legislature to pass Senate Bill 92 and open the world of cinema to people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and their friends and family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheri Perazzoli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheri Perazzoli
HLAA-Washington State President