



February 6, 2024
Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Apurva Varia, the President of Metro South Asian Deaf Association. I respectfully request that you support SB 92 - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks. 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 our MSADA members who watches videos. More than 100 empirical studies documents show that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. In fact, captions are particularly beneficial to non-native person who can learn English quickly by watching the captions.

Our members often struggle with the current devices (Rear Window captioning system or special glasses) provided by the motion picture houses because the devices are not Deaf Friendly and often have to be adjusted throughout the movies. With that said, we believe that we should be offered the same experiences as hearing people when the movies include the captions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 92.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Apurva", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Apurva Varia
President of Metro South Asian Deaf Association (MSADA)
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