

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joseph Obermiller and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, is beneficial to everyone who watches videos, including children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Over 100 empirical studies have shown that captioning improves comprehension, attention, and retention of the material. Captioning is especially valuable for people watching videos in a non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Joseph Obermiller
lobermiller@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jodi Oliveri and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I have been using closed captions while watching TV since I was a child, due to my auditory processing disorder. I wear earplugs in movie theaters because the noise (distorted speech) is difficult for me to follow along with dialog in the movie theaters. Open Captioned Movies will benefit me and others!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Jodi Oliveri
jodioliveri@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rebecca Ormont and I am with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I had idiopathic sensorineural hearing loss in one ear, it has mostly recovered but not 100%. Even if my hearing is 100%, I can be slow on the uptake due to ADHD. Captions help me so much because I can read and process much faster than I can hear.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ormont
cranwellra@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michelle Ottinger and I am Deaf.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I always support bills that promote the use of open captioned movies. While using devices for captioning can be more expensive and unsanitary, I prefer open captioning screenings for several reasons. Firstly, the larger screen size and easier visibility make it more accessible to people with visual impairments. Secondly, it's free to turn on captions on the screen, which is a significant advantage. As someone who wears thick glasses and has severe astigmatism, on-screen captions are particularly beneficial for me. They provide a more inclusive and accessible viewing experience for a wider range of people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ottinger
michelyn85@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rita Owens and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Captions are beneficial for many hearing people, too. It'd be helpful to get captioned movies during evenings or weekends instead of daytime as most of deaf people work full time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Rita Owens
nkowens@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Robert Padden and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Robert Padden
Paddenrmkk@aol.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mallory Pettis and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

This bill will make such a difference in the lives of many people in the MD deaf community, including my father. There is a wonderful, large deaf community in Maryland that will greatly benefit from having more options for entertainment and communal activities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Mallory Pettis
Mallory.Pettis@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Michael Pilson and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I love to attend any open captioned movies at cinemas without using vision devices. I feel a lot of freedom like other hearing people attend movies. The vision device is annoying to bring that looks too silly. I'd like to see more open captioned movies available in more locations nearby so that we can enjoy them as much as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Michael Pilson
mhpilson@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rebecca Pilson and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I love going to see the movies in the theater and being able to enjoy watching open captioned movies fully accessible.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pilson
repilson@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Vikki Porter and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I believe we need to decrease the number of screens required in order to have expanded access to more OC movie options.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Vikki Porter
porter.vikki.l@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Theresa Posthuma and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Theresa Posthuma
taposthuma@aol.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mike Purkey and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

As the executive director for an agency that serves deaf and hard of hearing constituents this bill will create more access to our population on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We tend to only have a few theatres in our area and most commonly they are more than 8 screens. Having this limit down to 4 would ensure accessibility to this population in our area.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Mike Purkey
mike.purkey@dila.org

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sheila Ray and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Sheila Ray
snerdboff@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ben Rivlin and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Ben Rivlin
brivlin@aol.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Alan Rogers, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Alan Rogers
Ajrogers1957@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Natalie Rosen and I am Hearing with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

It's not just my own hearing and auditory processing. The sound mixing in Hollywood films has objectively worsened in recent years, and I, along with many others, simply cannot enjoy a movie without subtitles. This keeps me away from movie theaters. I'd like to go to movie theaters again.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rosen
nat.han.rosen@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jerry Sansonese and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

My daughter is deaf and should have access to the same opportunities as a hearing person.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sansonese
gsans@aol.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sophia Satre and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

One time I used a caption device to see what it was like since I was with some deaf friends. It was such a headache and I didn't feel like it was a fair experience at the movies. Open captions on screen would be much preferred.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Sophia Satre
satre.sms@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ismella Saul-Jones and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

The more open caption movies, the better then using the glasses because sometimes it does not always charge and ends up replacing and missing half of the movie. I would like to enjoy the movie without anything blocking my view or using double glasses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Ismella Saul-Jones
ismella.saul@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ruth Ann Schornstein and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I have only been to movies about 5 times in my life as I am now 78 year old because we had to wear glasses but I have double vision added to my deafness.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Schornstein
ascul@aol.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Thelma Schroeder and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I am supporting the Open Captioning Movie Bill, which aims to reduce the required number of movie screens from 8 to 4, particularly for counties with fewer than 8 screens. This bill will enable both deaf and hearing residents to enjoy movies together. As the number of people experiencing hearing loss increases, this measure will ensure they can fully understand and appreciate the films being shown.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Thelma Schroeder
tiggy668@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mae Sellers and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Mae Sellers
maesellers@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Crystal Sisk and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Crystal Sisk
csisk1994@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Lisa Skaggs and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

I want equal access to watching movies like anyone else. It is fun watching movies with friends. Open captioning provides reading skills for everyone. Inclusion is a beautiful feeling.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Lisa Skaggs
ljskaggs58@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rosemond Skeete and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, this bill ensures that communities can enjoy equal access to movies without needing devices or other methods, just as others do when attending a film.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Rosemond Skeete
Subb08880@gmail.com