



Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 28, 2025

Dear Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Payal Sweet, the Acting President of Metro South Asian Deaf Association. I respectfully request that you support HB 1363 - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari.

It proposes changing the number of movie theater screens from 8 to 4. This would allow moviegoers to enjoy OC movies more smoothly at movie theaters with 4 or more screens, rather than requiring theaters with 8 or more screens. This change would benefit moviegoers in Southern MD, Western MD, and other regions.

It ensures a compliant resolution to make movie theaters adhere to Maryland law, with fines or penalties for non-compliance. (We have already established an office to oversee complaints and have included an amendment that allows moviegoers to directly submit complaints to the office. Action would be taken immediately to instruct movie theaters to comply with the law or face fines or penalties.)

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

Peacefully,

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

Metro South Asian Deaf Association (MSADA) Acting President