

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nkiruka Akunwafor 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.

As a Deaf person who loves movies, I want the freedom to choose any movie at my convenience, with open captions. It's incredibly difficult now, with limited open-captioned movies. Sometimes, I miss a movie I want to watch because the available times conflict with my work schedule. Additionally, I'd like to watch movies a few weeks after their release, but the options are limited. If all or most movies were open-captioned, I could go to the movies more frequently. Rear window captioning and caption glasses aren't reliable options for me, and they've caused years of frustration. I've refused to watch any movie in a theater unless it's open-captioned.

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

Sincerely,

Nkiruka Akunwafor
msnkikia@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kamaldeen Alabi and I am Deaf. I live in Washington 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,

Kamaldeen Alabi
akaoy2k@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kafayat Alabi and I am Deaf. I live in Washington 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,

Kafayat Alabi
princess_akat@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kay Amos and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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 and submit a monthly report to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights and the State of Maryland Attorney General.

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.

I just wanted to make sure that this would apply for the entire state of Maryland and not limited to Frederick, MD.

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

Sincerely,

Kay Amos
sandrakayamos@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Flora Amwayi and I am learning English as a second language. I live in Washington 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,

Flora Amwayi
damaish@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Averett 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.

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.

Asking for open captioning is not a lot to ask for for theaters with four or more screens. Currently it is almost impossible to find theatres with 8 screens that will provide captions. It is not reasonable accommodation. This means deaf people still cannot attend any movie theatres like people who can hear. Open captions have many benefits not limited to deaf people. Hearing people, including children, can learn English through captions.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Averett
klsheffer@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Conard Baer 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.

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,

Conard Baer
conradbaer@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Larissa Baer 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.

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.

Open captions are crucial for the deaf community because they provide equal access to movies by displaying dialogue, sound effects, and other audio cues directly on the screen. This ensures that deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals can fully engage with the film, understand the story, and enjoy the experience just like hearing viewers. Open captions promote inclusivity, allowing everyone to participate in cultural and entertainment activities without barriers.

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

Sincerely,

Larissa Baer
larissaecbaer@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Carol Baker and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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,

Carol Baker
canport88@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Nat Balsley 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.

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.

I have been immersed in the magic of movies in theaters since childhood and as a Deaf person, I usually had to settle for watching the latest films without captions. With the introduction of open captioned films not too long ago, this has completely revolutionized the movie-watching experience for myself and my friends. Now that I have 3 Deaf kids with my Deaf wife, I'm truly grateful for them not having to endure the same disappointing experience in watching movies without captions in theaters. We need to have open captions in ALL theaters at ALL times to ensure everyone of all hearing types can enjoy the magic of movies equally.

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

Sincerely,

Nat Balsley
bladezone@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joi Bannister and I am Hearing. 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.

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,

Joi Bannister
joi.bannister@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Beaumont 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.

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.

I am a hearing parent of a Deaf child. We love movies and really enjoy going to see them on the big screen, unfortunately movie theaters showing open-captioned options are few and far between. More theaters showing open-captioned movies would greatly benefit our family.

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Beaumont
ghgbeaumont@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Susan Beaver 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.

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,

Susan Beaver
Susanbeaver155@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Maureen Behrens 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.

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,

Maureen Behrens
aslnature64@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Suzi Behun 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.

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,

Suzi Behun
suzi@behun.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Holly Bentz and I am Hard of 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.

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,

Holly Bentz
chinadoll009@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is John Berry and I am Hearing. 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.

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,

John Berry
jpberry@cruiseplanners.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Annette Black 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.

It is very important to have captioned on the screen for us to enjoy what the movie is all about. We are often left out, please include anyone with fairness, the way we feel we are normal as the hearing people.

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

Sincerely,

Annette Black
annettelblack@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Cindy Blair and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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.

It is easier to watch the movie with open captions than using the assistance devices. Those assistance devices are obstacles from watching the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Blair
Cblair894@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Karen Blanchard 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.

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,

Karen Blanchard
seadog2847@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Linda Boland 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,

Linda Boland
lmb49va@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Amy Bopp 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.

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.

It's important for parents to bring their children to the movies at a time that is most convenient for them.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Bopp
bopp56@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Marcy Borneman, and I am Hard of 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.

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,

Marcy Borneman
Marcy.Borneman45@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Chuck Bowie 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.

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,

Chuck Bowie
Cebowie83@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Noelle Brilliant-Humm and I am Hearing. 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.

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.

Please support the bill to have more open captions. I love captions! I use them at home 100% of the time. It helps me not to miss anything! I have a child who is Deaf who uses captions regularly. As a teacher, I turn on captions every time I show a video in my class. Captions help children improve their reading skills & improve their comprehension.

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

Sincerely,

Noelle Brilliant-Humm
noellebrillant@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Vanishe Buchanan and I am Deaf. 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.

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,

Vanishe Buchanan
vanishe.buchanan@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Heidi Burghardt and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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.

I'm grateful that the State of Maryland passed this bill, but there's still room for improvement. I'd love to see more movie theaters, even those with fewer screens, offering open-captioned movies—especially since it doesn't cost the theaters anything. Captions benefit everyone, not just the Deaf community, as more and more people rely on them.

Additionally, movie showtimes need to be more reasonable—10 a.m. or 10 p.m. screenings aren't practical for most people. Offering open-captioned movies at convenient times would make them far more accessible to a wider audience.

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Burghardt
HABurghardt@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Leslie Caldwell and I am Hard of Hearing. 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.

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.

The passing of this bill will allow me to fully enjoy the experience of going to the movies like those who can hear without the use of listening devices. The equipment at the movie theaters is not reliable when it comes to providing access for transcribing the movie. With the captions on the screen, I will no longer have issues with following the plot of the movie or missing the funny jokes. I will no longer have to rely on my partner to tell me what I missed, interrupting their movie experience. This will be a wonderful experience to the Deaf community of Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Leslie Caldwell
lrcaldwell29@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jessica Chavis and I am Hearing. I live in Harford 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,

Jesscia Chavis
jesschavis@ymail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Bradley Christlieb and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert 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.

I am writing to emphasize the importance of open captioning and to advocate for its broader implementation across the state of Maryland. While open captioning is often viewed as a tool specifically for the Deaf, hard of hearing, or late-deafened communities, its benefits extend far beyond, positively impacting a wide range of individuals.

Open captioning ensures that everyone, regardless of hearing ability, can access and understand audiovisual content in public spaces such as theaters, conferences, sporting events, and more. This inclusive practice supports not only the Deaf and hard of hearing communities but also benefits:

1. Non-native English speakers– Captions provide an additional layer of comprehension, aiding those still mastering the language.
2. Elderly individuals – Many older adults experience age-related hearing loss, and captions help them stay engaged and informed.
3. People in noisy or quiet environments – Whether in a loud public area or a place where silence is required, captions ensure content remains accessible.
4. Children and students– Captions can enhance literacy skills and improve language acquisition.
5. Everyone seeking clarity – Accents, technical jargon, or unclear audio can make understanding difficult; captions bridge this gap.

Implementing open captioning fosters inclusivity, equal access, and aligns with Maryland's commitment to diversity and community support. It's not just about accessibility; it's about creating an environment where everyone has the opportunity to fully participate and enjoy public events and media.

I urge you to consider policies or initiatives that promote open captioning throughout Maryland. By doing so, we can make our state a model for inclusivity and accessibility.

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

Sincerely,

Bradley Christlieb
Bedale@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Charles Clark and I am Hearing 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.

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.

Although I am hearing, I heavily rely on captions as an autistic person who struggles with auditory processing. I used to love going to the movies but I missed so much of the dialogue that I started waiting until the movie was released on disc or streaming so I could add captions. It is frustrating to miss out on such a large part of the experience, even more so for my Deaf friends. This bill is essential in broadening access and inclusion in our local communities.

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

Sincerely,

Charles Clark
charles.amadeus.clark@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Mary Clark 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.

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.

My daughter is profoundly Deaf in both ears and when going to the theater we've tried using the glasses they provide, and they just suck. They don't stay on her face and the captions move which is not how we are used to viewing the captions. As a hearing person I also love having the captions so I don't miss any dialogue. I am lucky that in Carroll county I reached out to the RC theater in Westminster, and they happily captioned a movie for us. It just had to be pre-arranged well in advance. If all theaters were that accommodating I wouldn't be as insistent that we should have set open Caption options. It would be nice for it to be included in movie descriptions on the websites too, so you can choose which viewing time is open caption.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Clark
maryclark80@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sarah Collins and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel 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,

Sarah Collins
Splndrngrss@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Shannon Cooley 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.

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,

Shannon Cooley
ms.shannoncooley@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sheryl Cooper and I am Hearing. 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.

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.

My husband is hard-of-hearing and cannot enjoy movies in theaters, so we don't go. It would be great if movies in theaters were captioned so we could go to the movies together.

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

Sincerely,

Sheryl Cooper
fingerworks1@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Joseph Cordero, 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.

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 Cordero
mjmjhcordero@verizon.net

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Melissa Cordero, 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.

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,

Melissa Cordero
mjmjhcordero@verizon.net

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Ruth Cote and I am Hard of 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.

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.

As I am elderly and have an implant that is helpful, I very much appreciate the captions on TV programs so I fully support captioning at movie theaters at least 4 screens. My husband, who is elderly and hearing, finds that captions are very helpful for him and fully supports captioning at movie theaters too.

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

Sincerely,

Ruth Cote
racote43@comcast.net

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kim Craig 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.

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,

Kim Craig
kimmariee@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Rymingtahn Daniels and I am Hearing. 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.

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,

Rymingtahn Daniels
rymingtahn@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Davis 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.

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.

I want to be able to feel free to see a movie with open captions in movie theaters. No more barriers!

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis
GDavis3115@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jerome Davis and I am Hearing. 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.

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.

My wife is Deaf. I wanted to take her out to a movie where there are open captions. I believe equal access for Deaf people.

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

Sincerely,

Jerome Davis
JDDavis14@aol.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Blaise Delahoussaye and I am DeafBlind. 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,

Blaise Delahoussaye
wolfrog65@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Emily DePaul Young and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Calvert 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.

I am a woman who uses closed/open captioning for myself to better understand and interpret movies/shows/various media. I have ADD and am unable to fully grasp and enjoy the small details of digital media without said captioning. Please include an open caption.

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

Sincerely,

Emily DePaul Young
lilybug32311@yahoo.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Abby DePaul and I am Hearing with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Calvert 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,

Abby DePaul
abbydepaul@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Chris DeSomma and I am Hard of 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.

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,

Chris DeSomma
cdesgt67@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Meredith DeSomma 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.

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,

Meredith DeSomma
mdutchy81@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Sarah B. Doleac and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert 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.

We need access to open captioning so we can enjoy watching the movies with anyone. Please allow it to happen. We appreciate your support and consideration.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah B. Doleac
sarah.doleac@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is John Edington 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,

John Edington
john.d.edington@gmail.com

March 4, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

My name is JoAnn Elliott and I am Hearing. 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.

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,

Joann Elliott
elliott.tilden@gmail.com