



April 1, 2025

Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Prince George's County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD) strongly supports 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.

Currently, not all movie theatres in the state of Maryland are accessible. This includes areas such as the Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, and other counties where movie theatres do not offer open captioned films.

We believe that this bill will expand accessibilities to all movie theatres and ensure there are no barriers for everyone in the diverse communities who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, veterans, senior citizens, children and adults learning to read, individuals with learning or developmental disabilities and English language learners. It's more important that movie theatres be inclusive for everyone across the state.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you support HB 1363. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis

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President

PGCAD2020@gmail.com