

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara Martin 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.

It has been wonderful having the OC option when I want to take my grandchildren to the movies. Normally this kind of activity would be denied to me.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Martin  
bjmartin626@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelly McCully 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.

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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.

Growing up when closed captioning was not available at all, I value having open captioning at movie theaters. I live near Baltimore City where I go to events often. Going to open captioning movies in Baltimore City with 4 locations between 4-7 screens would definitely be a plus!

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

Sincerely,

Shelly McCully  
shelly.mccully@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth McGlone and I am Deaf. I live in Worcester 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,

Elizabeth McGlone  
elizabethgiraldi@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kevin McLeod 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.

As a Gallaudet University student I used to visit a theater in Georgetown that often features foreign language films subtitled in English. We had better access to their movies than American movies! Since that time, many technical captioning solutions have been tried - rear-window captioning, wearable displays, and other assisting devices. They are all ineffective.

On-screen subtitles are still superior to the technical solutions. The use of captions and subtitles in social media has normalized them. It's time to move forward and make them more broadly available in our theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin McLeod  
deafscribe@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alexander McLin 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,

Alexander McLin  
alex.mclin@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cindy Meadows 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.

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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.

Prince Frederick Flagstaff movie theatre has 7 screens - it would be awesome to have it open captioned instead of me driving more than 45 minutes drive one way to an open captioned movie theaters.

Please, again please have the smaller number of screens movie theaters to have open captioned - I would be very happy to go every week!!!

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Meadows  
Annajoeymom@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Philip Mecham and I am Deaf with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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 stopped going to movie theaters because they don't show enough time slots with open captions. We need more options of which movie to watch and more options of which day or night to go to the theater. The heavy dependence on closed captions and the limited open captions screenings made me give up going to movie theaters. I've tried the reflective gray glass viewer, which gave me a migraine every time I used it, plus it always shifted downward slowly so I had to hold the glass up with one hand for the entire duration of the movie. I've also tried the caption reader device (the kind that goes into the drink holder, same as the gray reflective glass), and I had to hold my drink in hand and also hold the device with my other hand from sinking down, while the hearing people in the audience were able to use their drink holders. I also tried the caption eyeglasses, which weighed heavy on my nose, and I am also wearing my own corrective eyeglasses, which made the experience even more cumbersome. The electronic devices often ended up dead or ran out of battery power in the middle of the movie. Open Caption (OC) is the way to go that puts everyone on equal enjoyment: being able to sit back and relax, instead of making Deaf people have to work harder on "CC" access during the movie to be able to see the words clearly. We Deaf people need more options to enjoy what hearing people enjoy.

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

Sincerely,

Philip Mecham  
signsparksync@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nancy Meyers 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.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Meyers  
Nannie812@gmail.com



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Molly Mirchandani 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.

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

Sincerely,

Molly Mirchandani  
molypfeifer@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kitty Monahan-Sewell 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.

Being able to go to the movies with my family and catch an OC movie is indescribable. To have the access that we need and rightfully deserve when it comes to enjoying life in the midst of chaos - honestly, no words.

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

Sincerely,

Kitty Monahan-Sewell  
itsjustmskitty@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Judith Mounty 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 am a senior citizen. I grew up deaf and went to the movies and had to guess what was being said and what was happening. Although I was well educated, I did not have access to the stories, music, lyrics of movies that became infused into the wider cultural experience of those who can hear. When movies become available with closed captions, it was an amazing awakening to watch films I had grown up with and know what was going on or to watch more recent movies available for home viewing. The provision of devices to watch closed captions in theaters may have been seen as progress, but I challenge a hearing person to use those devices without sound-many issues with actually being able to see clearly and in real time -especially if you wear corrective lenses. And the message is that there is something "wrong" with "subjecting" all viewers to captions, when in reality they are not disruptive when positioned properly. With open captions, we are all afforded equal access, and many people benefit including English language learners, and older people who are losing their hearing as well as people with disabilities that may affect auditory processing and other sensory experiences. Those not "needing" captions can still chose to attend those times when open captions are provided. The last open captioned movie I saw in theaters was "Barbie," in Silver Spring, MD a few years ago and my husband and I were probably the only deaf viewers, the others in the theater seemed to be hearing. The captions were excellent in placement and color and not intrusive or obtrusive at all. Everyone enjoyed the movie on equal footing. I hope this experience will not be taken from us and set us back many years of progress. Please keep open captions in the theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Judith Mouny  
jmouny@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jill Naumann 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,

Jill Naumann  
Jdnover@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sarah Nelinson and I am DeafBlind. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Nelinson  
chef.nelinson@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Erik Nordlof 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 am deaf, and while I live in Virginia, I am very close to DC and Maryland and frequently visit deaf and hard of hearing friends in both places. Every single one of us has bad experiences with closed-captioning devices, which are not sufficient accessibility tools for us at the movies. Open captioned screenings are universally preferred by the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Movies are a huge part of American culture, and deaf people want to be part of the moviegoing experience just like everyone else. We want to bond over the shared experience and be part of countrywide conversations about movies. It benefits us greatly to have movie theaters close to Marylanders and their friends (like me) so we can enjoy Open Caption times that are not too far away. More OC times at more theaters in Maryland means that we are more likely to go out and see the movies and also go out for meals or drinks before/after the movies, adding deaf dollars to Maryland businesses everywhere.

An accessible society is a belonging society, where everyone has the chance to be involved in communal experiences. Going to the movies is a big part of that. I hope that Maryland legislators will take this to heart, and I look forward to experiencing more OC options with Maryland friends who I would visit more often

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

Sincerely,

Erik Nordlof  
enordlof@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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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,

Joseph Obermiller  
lobermiller@yahoo.com



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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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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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

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

Sincerely,

Robert Padden  
Paddenrmkk@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cynthia Pettie 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 closed caption device for the seat arm is hard to use. Also, the device is inconvenient for my height because I'm short, for one thing.

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

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pettie  
cynpeters@comcast.net

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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 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



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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,

Theresa Posthuma  
taposthuma@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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,

Sheila Ray  
snerdboff@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Richard Rice and I am Deaf with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition and also learning English as a second language. 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,

Richard Rice  
dstrngr@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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,

Ben Rivlin  
brivlin@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brian Rogers and I am DeafBlind. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Rogers  
netbcr@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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.

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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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 more open caption movies, the better than 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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.

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 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dahlia Shaewitz 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.

I have been using closed captions since childhood to ensure my full understanding of what is being said in television and film. Although I don't have a hearing impairment, this has supported my ability to process information. I would greatly appreciate the option to have open captions in film. I actually think that most people would benefit from this option.

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

Sincerely,

Dahlia Shaewitz  
dahlshae@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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  
April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings 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

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Courtney Stagle and I am Hearing 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.

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

Sincerely,

Courtney Stagle  
terp.courtney@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carolyn Snyder-Mason 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 am glad to go to the movie theater during Prime time which is better than waiting a few weeks later. Wish theaters provide more showtime schedules instead of one showtime a day. In the afternoon would be great. Give more choice for anyone to go and watch instead of a limited schedule each day.

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

Sincerely,

Carolyn Snyder-Mason  
cksmason@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Pauline Spanbauer 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,

Pauline Spanbauer  
pes00@hotmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michael Stancil and I am Deaf with learning English as a second language. 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,

Michael Stancil  
Mpkafkan@aol.com



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kevin Steffy 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.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Steffy  
Kevinrsteffy@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rachel Stesch 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.

As an ASL interpreter, I have been informed that many Deaf & Hard of Hearing individuals are turning toward mainstream movie platform services from home as opposed to visiting their local cinema due to theaters not offering open captions for all movies, only furthering the ongoing issue of inaccessibility. Furthermore, dialogue can often be difficult to hear & can be a preference regardless of hearing loss, especially from audience noise or strong accent of character(s). More OC'd movie options could potentially benefit all people.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Stesch  
rstesch@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Linda Stoltz 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.

The Maryland Deaf Community Center is supporting the bill. 1.2 million Deaf and Hard of Hearing people live in Maryland. They have a right to access the movies any time/anywhere just as hearing people do.

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

Sincerely,

Linda Stoltz  
Linda.Stoltz@deafmdcc.org