

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jennifer Story 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.

I have a severe to profound bi-lateral hearing loss. I wear a hearing aid and cochlear implant in order to help me hear and communicate with those around me. Going to them used to be fun but now it's not. It is impossible for me to keep up with the dialogue and understand what is being said between the characters because there is so much background noise happening in the movies. By having open caption films, I will allow me to be able to see what the actors are saying and understand the movie better. I rely on closed captioning at home when watching TV. I should be able to go to a movie and enjoy it, not leave feeling frustrated bc I missed the majority of the dialogue.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Story
jagecu@msn.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 Carrie Suggs 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,

Carrie Suggs
Thatcarrie@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 Seiger Summer 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.

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

Sincerely,

Seiger Summer
sseiger@ccbcmd.edu

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stephanie Summers 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.

Open captioning movies allows all of us to benefit in numerous ways: keep up with our reading and language skills; include everyone in society; and emphasize inclusiveness.

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

Sincerely,

Stephaine Summers
srsummers4@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 Rana Taneja 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,

Rana Taneja
tanejar48gmail.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 Catherine Thompson and I am Deaf. I live in Charles 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.

Having open captions makes for a better movie going experience. It is very frustrating to watch a movie in theaters without having the captions stating what's happening. Many times, I end up having to get the DVD and rewatch it later. Having the option to watch movies with closed captioning is incredibly helpful.

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

Sincerely,

Catherine Thompson
Gilbberd56@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 Rick Thompson and I am Deaf. I live in Charles 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,

Rick Thompson
Deafsumo1@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 John Thuahnai 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,

John Thuahnai
jobawth@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 Deanna Tilden 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.

None of the four movie theater locations in Baltimore City have 8-screen theaters. Please reduce the number of screens at a location closer to where I or my friends can go.

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

Sincerely,

Deanna Tilden
dtilden86@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 Linda C. Tom 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,

Linda C. Tom
Lctom71@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 Angel Trego 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.

I was an employee with Deaf Independent Living Associates for a year. I understand how difficult it is for the deaf community to understand and follow along with movies. This would be perfect for the deaf and hard of hearing community. They deserve to be involved in as much stuff as possible and this will give them that opportunity and freedom.

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

Sincerely,

Angel Trego
atrego6923@outlook.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 Steve Tyler 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,

Steve Tyler
stevet4@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 Sunit Upadhyaya 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sunit Upadhyaya
Sunit1988@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 Hatim Vali 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..

Open-Captioned Movies benefit all moviegoers on comprehension and memory as well as literacy in children and adults.

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

Sincerely,

Hatim Vali
Deflgm@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 Kalpana Varia 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,

Kalpana Varia
dharshiv15@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 Haritha Vasat 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.

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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.

We actually do not go to movie theaters because my husband is hard of hearing in one ear, and the sound through that ear is distorted. He struggles to understand the story without captioning, so we prefer to watch movies at home. I think movie theater companies would find that including more captioned screenings would boost their attendance far more than expected. Many people who are not clinically deaf or hard of hearing would benefit, as well as their families and friend groups.

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

Sincerely,

Haritha Vasat
haritha.akkaraju@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 Madan Vasishta, 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,

Madan Vasishta
madanv41@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 Gerald Voltmann 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,

Gerald Voltmann
gdvoltmann@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 Sandie von Garrel 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.

Indeed, there are significant requirements for Open captioning (OC) at all theaters to ensure accessibility for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Sandie von Garrel
Sandie2girls@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 Claudine Wanzer-Fehr 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.

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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,

Claudine Wanzer-Fehr
hiclaudine@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 Nancylynn Ward 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.

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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 an avid moviegoer and have been since I lived in California, where open-captioned movies were mainstream. I was born here, grew up here, and moved to CA at 16, living there until I was 47 before returning almost 10 years ago. While living in CA, my boys and I enjoyed going to the movies to see Harry Potter films and others. Now that my boys are grown, I find that I continue this tradition with my grandchildren who live here in Maryland. They love going to the movies with their NANA. They have captioning at home (even though they are hearing) because their father- also hearing- cannot watch TV or movies without it, as it was always on when my boys were growing up. My grandchildren do not know anything different or unusual about having captioning on their screens. It has helped with their reading abilities, and they are considered advanced readers at 4, 6, and 8 years of age.

Last week, I took my grandkids to see Mufusa: The Lion King. The open caption feature was not available at the AMC 17 Owings Mills movie theater which is close to our home, so I decided to use the closed captioning option. A BIG MISTAKE. I had to switch out my devices three times because the battery was low, only to find out the captions were not even turned on. I finally whipped out my phone and paid 79 dollars for an app that would caption the movie for me. Seriously?!?!? OC movies need to be, and ideally, more than twice a week, and this is a movie theatre that has 14 theatres.

That day, when I went with the grandkids, they were off school for President's Day, and Owings Mills didn't have the open caption feature for this movie that day. Not everyone has 79 dollars to

spend to download a phone app that will caption movies for you. I was irritated, and even though OWINGS MILLS AMC 17 Movie Theater folks apologized and offered free movie tickets, snacks, and drinks for the next movie, it happens way too often for my liking. I think this is something that needs to be addressed "yesterday." Your support in amending this bill would be greatly appreciated by me! Thank you.

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

Sincerely,

Nancylynn Ward
nancylynnward@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 Niki Warman 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.

Frederick County has been good with providing open captioned movies and I would love other counties (in smaller areas) to provide the same equal access for Deaf/Hard of Hearing people. Especially for when people visit Ocean City (MD).

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

Sincerely,

Niki Warman
Niki.warman@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 Tammy Weiner 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.

As a deaf person, I enjoy going to movies with open captions. I no longer have to struggle with closed caption devices. I thank you for making this bill possible for the Deaf community in Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Tammy Weiner
lanierweiner@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 Janet Weinstock 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.

As a Deaf individual who is a retired educator, I strongly support this Open Captioning bill for it will ensure access to information for Deaf individuals, for the members of the Deaf community as well as English as a 2nd language learners and the individuals who have learning disability. We can go and enjoy watching movies together. When everyone is able to enjoy the captions along with the audio, everyone wins.

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

Sincerely,

Janet Weinstock
janetweinstock13@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 Michele Westfall 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'm blessed to live in Frederick because it has two movie theaters that regularly provide open captioned movies which my children, my friends and I enjoy, and I'm sad that it's not the case in other counties.

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

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall
fuzzyw5@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 Katie White and I am Hearing with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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.

As someone who has difficulty processing audio, especially while watching movies or TV shows, having captions is immensely helpful. The times I have gone to a theater with open captions, I've been able to follow along and pay better attention to the movie. Having this option available more often will get me out to the movies more as well.

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

Sincerely,

Katie White
kewwhite598@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 Mary Anne White, 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,

Mary Anne White
maryannewhite54@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 Brenda Williams and I am Hard of Hearing.

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 to highlight the importance of open captions in movie theaters. While some theaters offer personal captioning devices, these devices are often unreliable—frequently uncharged, malfunctioning, or uncomfortable to use. This creates a frustrating and exclusionary experience for people like me who simply want to enjoy a film without added barriers.

Open captions provide an accessible, seamless experience for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as many others, including those with auditory processing disorders and non-native English speakers. By increasing the availability of open-caption screenings, Maryland can set a standard for inclusivity and ensure that everyone has equal access to the cinematic experience.

I urge you to pass legislation that would require or incentivize more open-caption showings in movie theaters across the state.

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

Sincerely,

Brenda Williams

Bwilliams071488@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 Judy Williams and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

I've been Deaf since birth and a Maryland resident for 15 years. I have two wonderful hearing children who watch TV and movies with closed captions (CC) 100% of the time. They're very accustomed to it, to the point where they find it strange if CC isn't on! We love going to the movie theater as a family treat, but they notice that even in the theater, we're separated by our access. The kids miss the words on the screen, and I either have to sit awkwardly with a plastic screen in front of me or wear big, heavy glasses. We would love to be able to pick a movie, go in, sit wherever we like, and share the same movie screen experience!

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

Sincerely,

Jody Williams
Jodydb@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 Elsie Winters and I am Deaf. I live in Kent 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.

Although I now have a cochlear implant, I rely one hundred percent on captioned programs on TV and on movies. Most news stations are captioned and without that, I would not have any indication of what is news other than what I read online. I hope this service continues.

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

Sincerely,

Elsie Winters
kentco4@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 Marcia Zisman 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 love watching movies but am limited in what I can view due to lack of open captions.

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

Sincerely,

Marcia Zisman
mzisman270@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 Lauren Zummo, 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.

I am a mother of two deaf girls. They love going to the movies. Options for movies with open captions are limited, and captions devices almost always have problems. It's so disappointing when we go to the movies and the caption devices aren't working. I'd say it's 50/50 chance the device won't work. We miss part of the film trying to fix them. Often we get the movie tickets reimbursed because the devices aren't working, but that has still wasted our time and money for concessions etc. Sometimes we decide it's not worth it and wait for streaming.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Zummo
lszummo@gmail.com