

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 B. Doleac and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, is beneficial to everyone who watches videos, including children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Over 100 empirical studies have shown that captioning improves comprehension, attention, and retention of the material. Captioning is especially valuable for people watching videos in a non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sarah B. Doleac  
sarah.doleac@gmail.com

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 Edington and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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 Edington  
john.d.edington@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 JoAnn Elliott and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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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,

Joann Elliott  
elliott.tilden@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 Christina Factor, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

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

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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 friends with a deaf person and would love to have more places be inclusive for them

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

Sincerely,

Christina Factor  
Cdcostea@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 Roy Fernandes 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.

I am glad that the OC bill was passed and is now into law across Maryland. However, I am advocating for an amendment to the OC law to better support moviegoers with disabilities, including people with hearing loss, veterans with hearing loss, foreign speakers, and deaf individuals whose first language is ASL, in Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, and Southern Maryland. They should have the right to watch open-captioned movies at theaters with four or more screens, rather than the current requirement of eight or more screens. Expanding this access statewide would ensure equal opportunities for all Maryland residents.

This is not just about privileges—it is about the fundamental right to access and understand movies, allowing individuals to gain knowledge and fully participate in society. Additionally, enforcing compliance with the OC law is crucial to ensure that movie theaters respect and uphold these rights. Proper training for movie theater owners and staff is a key issue, as awareness and understanding of accessibility requirements are essential. Ensuring accessibility is vital for a more inclusive and equitable future.

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

Sincerely,

Roy Fernandes  
royfern@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 Sherry Fernandes 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.

I sometimes invite my friends who live in Southern Maryland, and they've shared how difficult it is for them to go to their local movie theater because it doesn't provide open-captioned (OC) movies due to its limited number of screens. Seeing their frustration was upsetting. I hope this amended bill will lift their spirits so they can finally enjoy watching OC movies at their local theater—and I can visit to watch with them anytime.

This is about more than just convenience; it's about freedom and accessibility without unnecessary obstacles. All Marylanders, including those in Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, and Southern Maryland, should have equal access to OC movies at theaters statewide, not just in select areas. It would also be great if people file complaints when theaters fail to comply, ensuring that the OC law is properly followed and respected.

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

Sincerely,

Sherry Fernandes  
Sherryaryafern@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 Adeoluwa Folami and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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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,

Adeoluwa Folami  
adeoluwafolami@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 Gail Fowler, 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,

Gail Fowler  
gafowler17@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 Pam Frank 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.

#### The Case for Open Captioning in Movie Theaters

Imagine stepping into a movie theater, the scent of freshly popped popcorn filling the air. The lights dim, anticipation builds, and the film begins. But for millions of people, the magic of cinema remains just out of reach. For the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, as well as many others, open captioning is not just a convenience—it's a necessity.

#### Accessibility for All

Movies are a fundamental part of our culture, shaping our perspectives and connecting us through shared experiences. Yet, without open captioning, an entire population is excluded from fully enjoying this experience. Closed captioning devices, often provided by theaters, are cumbersome, unreliable, and stigmatizing. Many individuals report malfunctions, poor visibility, or even discomfort from using these devices. Open captions—subtitles displayed directly on the screen—eliminate these barriers, ensuring equal access for all moviegoers without additional effort or specialized equipment.

#### Beyond the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community

Open captioning benefits more than just those with hearing impairments. Non-native speakers, individuals with auditory processing disorders, and even those in noisy environments can all gain

a better understanding of the film's dialogue. In fact, studies show that comprehension and retention improve when audiences can read along with spoken words. By implementing open captioning, theaters can create a more inclusive and enjoyable experience for everyone, broadening their audience base and fostering a sense of community.

### Economic and Social Benefits

Theater owners might argue that open captions could deter audiences, but evidence suggests otherwise. In cities where open-captioned screenings are regularly available, demand remains steady, with many patrons specifically seeking out these showings. Families, friends, and couples with mixed hearing abilities can enjoy movies together, rather than being forced into separate accommodations. Moreover, implementing open captioning demonstrates a commitment to diversity and inclusion, aligning with the values of accessibility-conscious consumers who prioritize businesses that support social equity.

### A Simple Yet Impactful Solution

The push for open captioning is not about adding complexity; it's about simplifying access. Streaming services, television networks, and online platforms have embraced captions as a standard feature—why should theaters be any different? By normalizing open-captioned screenings, cinemas can set a precedent for accessibility in entertainment, making movies truly available to all.

In an era where inclusivity should be the norm, not the exception, it's time for movie theaters to step up. Open captioning isn't just a feature—it's a right. Let's make the magic of cinema an experience that everyone can enjoy, without barriers, without limitations, and with the full power of storytelling accessible to all.

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

Sincerely,

Pam Frank  
pamelalynne80@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 Donald Galloway and I am Deaf with learning English as a second language. 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.

Please accept the concept of inclusiveness and equality for all deaf and hard-of-hearing people to access open-captioning movies, like hearing moviegoers and hearing-disabled people who hear audio-English. Please do not leave Deaf and hard-of-hearing people behind!

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

Sincerely,

Donald Galloway  
dgalloway14@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 Sue Gill-Doleac and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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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 passing the open cc movie bill to provide communication access to deaf and hard of hearing individuals last year. I have been enjoying the open captioning movies when I am in MD at my 2nd home. To be able to understand what is being said in the film has brought much joy to myself and many deaf individuals. I would like to ask if you could improve one thing- to provide open captioning at a better time schedule. We deserve to watch movies just like anyone else.

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

Sincerely,

Sue Gill-Doleac  
sgilldoleac@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 Lonnie Graddy 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,

Lonnie Graddy  
randy.graddy@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 Casey Greenberg and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

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

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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 always prefer to watch movies with captions but the only open caption showings are often at inconvenient times. I'm hearing, but I remember seeing Avengers Endgame in theaters twice and thinking this character's name was Violet only to find out when I finally watched it with captions that it was Lila.

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

Sincerely,

Casey Greenberg  
wolfanaticasey@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 Jackie Guers 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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I wear cochlear implants. Having access to open captions at the movie theater allows me to enjoy the movies with my hearing family without any barriers. Anxiety no longer exists and I am able to enjoy the movies just like everyone else. If I pay to watch, I want to understand. Please provide open captions at least 4 screens movie theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Jackie Guers  
jackieguers@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 Erica Harrell 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Erica Harrell  
erica.franklin2@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 Fred Hartman 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.

This bill supports the expansion and availability of theaters for the Deaf/HoH, people with disabilities, senior citizens, veterans, will have full access to watch Open Captioned movies in their rural areas.

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

Sincerely,

Fred Hartman  
fhartman6@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 Stephen Hause 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.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Hause  
pastorstephenhause@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 Carina Hed Edington and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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 Prince George's County Association of the Deaf President, on behalf of our Deaf community, we support this bill.

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

Sincerely,

Carina Hed Edington  
carina.g.edington@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 Ulf Hedberg 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Ulf Hedberg  
sweducks@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 Deborah Hill 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hill  
debfaith3@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 Davy Hirsch and I am Deaf with learning English as a second language. 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Davy Hirsch  
davyann86@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 Peggy Hlibok 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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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hlibok  
pevhlibok@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 Laurie Hortie 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 two deaf sisters and many deaf friends who would benefit from this. Also, as I age I often use CC when viewing shows or movies. OC would be the best.

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

Sincerely,

Laurie Hortie  
lhortie6@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 Margaret Hortie 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 have 2 sisters that are deaf . They have missed out on so many things in their lives. This simple request would make a world of difference in all those that are deaf, hard of hearing and even hearing people.

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Hortie  
marghort301@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 Lisa Hubble and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, is beneficial to everyone who watches videos, including children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Over 100 empirical studies have shown that captioning improves comprehension, attention, and retention of the material. Captioning is especially valuable for people watching videos in a non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Hubble  
LHubble05@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 Gausia Huq-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.

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,

Gausia Huq-Vali  
malisami2122@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 Melody Hurst and I am Hard of Hearing with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, is beneficial to everyone who watches videos, including children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Over 100 empirical studies have shown that captioning improves comprehension, attention, and retention of the material. Captioning is especially valuable for people watching videos in a non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

Having open captioning widely available in theaters is important to me because it would make more movies more accessible to me. I don't often go to the movies, but when I do I tend to be unable to follow the story well. I often miss dialogue that is important to the story, and it becomes confusing to try to follow so I either zone out or fall asleep. I much prefer to watch movies at home, with captions on. I used to love going to the movies. I would like to do it more, but as time passes, captions become more of a requirement. As it stands, the infrequency of screenings for open captions makes it hard to schedule a movie night into my family's leisure time, streaming a movie with captions tends to be much easier and enjoyable for me. However, I would like to go to the movies more. In the past I had always loved going to a shopping center, getting some dinner, and seeing a movie after. I feel more open captioning options would make that experience much more accessible and enjoyable to me and many other people again.

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

Sincerely,

Melody Hurst  
melody.e.hurst@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 Lora Ireland 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.

I don't go to movies. Even with my cochlear, I can't understand and hear fully enough to know what's going on. Open Caption in Baltimore City will be helpful.

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

Sincerely,

Lora Ireland  
kindones@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 Su Kyong Isakson 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.

As a hearing person with Deaf family members, open captioning allows for my whole family to enjoy the movies together, without the need for me to interpret for my family members.

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

Sincerely,

Su Kyong Isakson  
sisakson@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 Heidi Joyner 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,

Heidi Joyner  
htjhmj73@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 Tina Joyner 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.

A sense of community to watch movies together is huge and valuable. We are in ONE society and we share the belief that we should share with everyone in the community.

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

Sincerely,

Tina Joyner  
TMJoyner8@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 Eric Kaika 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.

Captions are educational.

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

Sincerely,

Eric Kaika  
emkaika@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 Simon Kallungal 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,

Simon Kallungal  
skallungal@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 Minar Kamdar, 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.

Support 4 or more screens to show more open captioned movies.

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

Sincerely,

Minar Kamdar  
mkamdar4@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 Fatima Khan 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,

Fatima Khan  
missy.fatima@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 Toni Killam 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,

Toni Killam  
drtonya25@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 Sheelah Kimbrough 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.

More accessible showtimes are needed so Deaf individuals have the same convenience as everyone else. I have received positive feedback that open-captioned movies provide a good experience for everyone, not just Deaf people. One key benefit is that they create a shared experience between Deaf and hearing communities.

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

Sincerely,

Sheelah Kimbrough  
greenshel@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 Lar Koslow and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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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,

Lar Koslow  
itzLaurenR@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 Sagar Kohari and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, is beneficial to everyone who watches videos, including children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Over 100 empirical studies have shown that captioning improves comprehension, attention, and retention of the material. Captioning is especially valuable for people watching videos in a non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

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

Sincerely,

Sagar Kothari  
oceantetra@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 Smita Kohari 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.

Captions help us understand the multiple languages in complex terminologies and topics and learn effectively. Additionally, it helps us express the languages accurately especially for English second language learners.

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

Sincerely,

Smita Kothari  
oceanpeacock2810@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 Rosemary Latin 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,

Rosemary Latin  
RTLatin@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 Jacob Leffler 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,

Jacob Leffler  
JLeffler24@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 Harrison Lewis and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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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 mom has had progressive hearing loss since 2013. When she visits, we try to find places with captions so she can fully participate. Without captions, she often has to ask for words to be repeated or misses sentences altogether. Open captions work best for her. I find that as a hearing person, I am also able to engage better with the added accessibility of open captions. How many times have you watched a movie or performance and 'lost' the speech, making it difficult to understand what is going on in the performance? The world is noisy and as my Mom's hearing loss progresses, I don't want her 'world' to get smaller because she can't hear/understand speech. Open captions open the world to my Mom and others with varied abilities to hear, understand and more equally engage.

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

Sincerely,

Harrison Lewis  
n2theshredder@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 Alona Loehlein and I am 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.

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

Sincerely,

Alona Loehlein  
alona22193@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 Loftus 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,

Robert Loftus  
rloftusii@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 Kathleen MacMillan and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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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 benefit everyone. I never watch TV at home without captions and part of the reason I rarely go to movies anymore is because it is so difficult to get captioned options.

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen MacMillan  
kathymacmillan@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 Enrica Manos and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

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

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, is beneficial to everyone who watches videos, including children, adolescents, college students, and adults. Over 100 empirical studies have shown that captioning improves comprehension, attention, and retention of the material. Captioning is especially valuable for people watching videos in a non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

I recently underwent brain surgery to remove a brain tumor on my auditory nerve. In choosing to save my life, I lost all my hearing in my right ear. Closed captions have become a much needed tool in my new normal. I use them when watching TV or movies in my own home. As my recovery continues, I would like the option to have the same feature of closed captions if I go to the movie theater with my family. There are many deaf and hard of hearing individuals living in Maryland that deserve to enjoy all the same leisure activities that hearing individuals have throughout the state.

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

Sincerely,

Enrica Manos  
greekfamily4@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 Allen Markel 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,

Allen Markel  
a4markel@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 Tabitha Markel 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,

Tabitha Markel  
luxboucle@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 Morgan Marshall 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.

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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,

Morgan Marshall  
Morgansfree101@yahoo.com