

HB 1363 2025 Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on

Uploaded by: Adam Levine

Position: FAV

March 28, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on Disabilities

RE: **House Bill 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning Motion Pictures Houses – Alterations**

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on Disabilities **supports House Bill 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Pictures Houses – Captioning.**

The reason for this bill is simple – without it, no cinema in Baltimore City would have to offer any open-captioning screenings. Open-captioning means that Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can read the dialogue on the big screen rather than use small captioning devices which, of course, interfere with the main reason why people still go the cinema. This bill makes Baltimore City theaters more accessible and inclusive.

Last session, we were delighted that the General Assembly enacted HB 426/SB 92, which requires certain motion picture houses to provide at least two open-caption movie screenings per week for the first three weeks of a movie premier. The motion picture house can select which two screenings to suit its business purposes. During the legislative process, the bill was amended so that it only applies to a motion picture house with at least eight screens. This means that only the very largest motion picture houses are subject to this requirement and in Baltimore City the most popular and well-attended locations are exempt. This bill would simply reduce from eight screens to four screens those motion picture houses affected.

We respectfully believe that this will better serve the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, including many of our seniors, so that they too can fully enjoy the big screen experience. Over time, we anticipate that two open-captioning screenings per week will draw viewers who would otherwise stay home to watch a movie. It is our hope that this would both increase business and serve the cause of better accessibility.

This bill would alter the number of screens in a motion picture house above which the motion picture house is required to provide open movie captioning; requiring that each motion picture house that is a place of public accommodation report to the Commission on Civil Rights and the Attorney General on the number of screenings each month in which certain captions were used; and generally relating to movie captioning in motion picture houses.

At present, under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), motion picture houses are required to provide closed captioning access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, which

means small individual devices so that each person can read the dialogue as the movie plays on the big screen. But, as you can imagine, this is an awkward way to experience a film that was intended to be enjoyed on the big screen as one seamless experience.

The proposed requirement for open captioning for two screenings per week would mean that the dialogue would be displayed on the big screen. While there is some resistance to this for fear of an adverse financial impact, our investigation suggests that such screenings, particularly if offered at the more attractive times, would actually increase the overall audience because it would also be more accessible to seniors and persons for whom English is a second language. Having the dialogue on the big screen enhances the movie-going experience for a variety of individuals.

We therefore respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1363

AS Testimony for HB 1363 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Audrey Sellers

Position: FAV

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
HB 1363: PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION - CAPTIONING FOR MOTION PICTURE
HOUSES - ALTERATIONS
APRIL 1, 2025

POSITION: SUPPORT

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the designated Protection and Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM thanks the Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1363: Places of Public Accommodation - Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations.

HB 1363 seeks to lower the threshold for mandatory open captioning from theaters with eight or more screens to those with four or more screens. It requires these venues to provide open captioning for at least two screenings of each motion picture per week and to report the number of open and closed captioning screenings to the state. Last session, legislation was passed requiring that at least four showings of open-captioned films be provided weekly by certain movie theaters. State and local laws requiring that movie theaters provide open captioning are increasingly common throughout the nation. New York’s City Council passed a bill, which went into effect in 2022, requiring some movie theaters to offer at least 25% of all showings to be open-captioned.¹ In comparison, Maryland has taken a more cautious approach, which may make compliance easier for movie theaters. Open captioning benefits many groups, including Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, older adults with hearing loss, and neurodivergent individuals.

Although Title III “Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities” of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law over 30 years ago, movie theater patrons with disabilities still have not achieved equal enjoyment of this public accommodation. The applicable law under 28 CFR § 36.202(b) states:

“A public accommodation shall not afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.”

Pursuant to a Final Rule issued in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Justice, movie theaters are required to provide captioning technology to patrons with disabilities.²

¹ See <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mome/about/open-captions>.

² See https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/movie_rule.htm

When this rule was issued, Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals gained greater access to the public pastime of seeing movies in theaters. However, closed captioning is the most commonly provided option. Time has shown that closed captioning is insufficient as the sole auxiliary aid available to moviegoers with disabilities. Closed captioning devices provided to movie theater guests frequently malfunction, causing patrons to miss essential dialogue while seeking a repair or replacement. Oftentimes the technology fails to function properly at all.

Under ADA obligations, a movie theater may fulfill its obligation to provide captioning “through any technology so long as that technology provides communication as effective as that provided to movie patrons without disabilities.”³ However, since closed captioning devices are often unreliable, theaters may instead choose to “use open movie captioning as an alternative to complying with the requirements.”⁴

Maryland has joined other states implementing similar disability rights legislation to align with Title III of the ADA. Now that last year’s legislation has been successfully implemented, it is time to expand that access to open captioning for the benefit of people with disabilities, older adults, children, English language learners, and others who rely on captions for an engaging moviegoing experience.

For these reasons, DRM supports House Bill 1363. If you have any questions regarding DRM’s testimony, please contact me at (443) 692-2507 or AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org. I appreciate the Committee’s time and consideration in reviewing our testimony.

Respectfully,

Audrey Sellers
Advocate
Disability Rights Maryland

³ 28 CFR § 36.303(d)(6)(i)

⁴ *Id.* at (d)(6)(ii)

BCAD HB 1363 Open Captioning Movie Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: BCAD BCAD

Position: FAV



April 1, 2025

Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD) to express our support for HB 1363 - Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill mandates that motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

The BCAD Board strongly believes that this bill will significantly benefit the diverse population of Baltimore City, including children and adults learning to read, senior citizens, veterans, individuals with learning or developmental disabilities, English language learners, and the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities.

Not only will this bill benefit the residents of Baltimore City, but it will also provide greater accessibility to movie theaters across the state. This includes areas such as the Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, and other counties where movie theaters do not currently offer open captioned films. By lowering the threshold for open captioned screenings, this bill will make more theaters across Maryland accessible to a wider range of people, regardless of location.

Currently, there are no movie theaters in Baltimore City that are required to provide open captioned screenings, as the existing law mandates that theaters must have eight or more screens. This bill will lower the threshold to accommodate four theaters in the city that would be required to offer open captioned films:

- **Senator Theatre** – 4 screens
- **Charles Theatre** – 5 screens
- **Harbor East Cinemas** – 7 screens
- **Warehouse Cinemas Rotunda** – 7 screens

Many community members have expressed the difficulty of having to travel at least 30 minutes outside of Baltimore City to access open captioned movies. If this bill is passed, it would allow individuals to enjoy these screenings at theaters just a few minutes away, either by car or on foot.

Implementing this law will ensure open captioned movies are available to everyone in the community. We believe that the impact on movie theaters will be minimal. Offering two open captioned screenings per week will not significantly affect operations, as theaters will not need to hire additional staff to accommodate captioning. In fact, the change will likely attract more moviegoers, as individuals from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, as well as those who benefit from captioning, will have a convenient and accessible option to enjoy films.

This bill presents a win/win situation for both moviegoers and theaters alike. It ensures inclusivity and provides greater access to entertainment, benefiting people of all backgrounds.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We appreciate your support for HB 1363 and for making our community more accessible to everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacob Leffler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jacob Leffler
President
bcadeaf2020@gmail.com

MaCCRA 2025 Testimony for Senate - Support - House

Uploaded by: Bruce Hartung

Position: FAV



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: House Bill 1363 - Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Alterations
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee, The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2025
POSITION: Favorable

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has more than 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers, whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA SUPPORTS efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide, while maintaining and enhancing their quality of life.

Current law requires only theaters with eight or more screens to provide some showings with open captioning. **On behalf of Maryland Continuing Care Residents, we support House Bill 1363**, which extends the requirement for open captioning to apply to theaters with four or more screens.

A substantial proportion of the population we represent suffers from hearing deficits, yet wish to continue to enjoy a full life, including going to the movies. Without captioning and being unable to hear and understand dialogue, there is no point for them in buying a ticket to a movie. While the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires movie theaters to provide closed captioning, many theaters currently have equipment that does not work properly or does not work at all. More importantly, even when in good repair, using these devices is cumbersome, inconvenient, and often difficult. Looking back and forth between the device and the screen interferes with full comprehension and pleasurable viewing. Having open captions provides a very welcome alternative to using these devices and makes going to the movies once again possible and enjoyable.

Captions benefit many people, not only elders who struggle with hearing loss, but other deaf and hard of hearing viewers. In addition, those learning English, those who have auditory processing issues, those who struggle with accents, and people learning to read find captions helpful if not essential.

For these reasons we support **House Bill 1363** and ask for a **favorable report**.

For further information please contact: Bruce Hartung, President, Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association at brucehartung@sbcglobal.net

Jacob Leffler's Oral Testimony-4.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Leffler

Position: FAV

Thank you, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and the Committee, for the opportunity to explain why this bill is critically important for passage in the House. First, I want to express my gratitude for your past support and efforts in passing the previous version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor last year. And now, it's a pleasure to see you all again to discuss this important issue, which will ensure more movie theaters are more accessible across the State of Maryland.

Currently, the law mandates that movie theaters with 8 or more screens provide open-captioned movies twice a week for the first three weeks after a film's release. However, this applies to only 39 theaters statewide, leaving 15 theaters exempt from providing open-captioned movies. Our goal is to ensure that all movie theaters are accessible, so people don't have to drive up to an hour/50 miles just to see a movie with open captions.

Under the current law, these counties that only have theaters with 7 or fewer screens in most cases are not required to provide open-captioned movies in the following counties:

- Allegheny County
- Baltimore City
- Calvert County
- Dorchester County
- Kent County
- Talbot County
- Worcester County

This bill, which reduces the threshold to theaters with 4 or more screens, will help resolve this issue by ensuring that more movie theaters statewide—particularly in Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland—are able to provide more open captioned movies. For example, right now, only one movie theater is currently required to show open captions in the Eastern Shore area. With this bill, there will be up to five additional theaters, which is a 500% increase for accessibility for the Eastern Shore.

Open captioning means that everyone can enjoy the movie together, without needing separate devices for access. Right now, we must rely on bulky, uncomfortable glasses or a cupholder device that often malfunctions or dies. Precious time is taken away from movie enjoyment by going to the lobby to either replace or, if no replacement is available, get free ticket vouchers to come again another time. It's inconvenient and time consuming. Open captioned movies eliminate these problems, providing a more streamlined and enjoyable experience for all moviegoers.

I am hopeful that Maryland will lead the nation in ensuring equal access to movies for everyone. Passing this bill would make our state a shining example of inclusivity and accessibility.

Thank you again for your support over the years. Let's continue to work together to make Maryland a more welcoming and accessible state for all residents.

Jacob Leffler

2025 PGCAD HB1363 - Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Prince George's County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD) strongly supports HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis

Gabrielle Davis

President

PGCAD2020@gmail.com

ALDA HB 1363 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



Maryland Open Captioning Movies <mdopencaptioning@gmail.com>

HB 1363 Open Captioned Movies Bill Amendment

ALDA President <president@alda.org>

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 12:31 PM

To: Maryland Open Captioning Movies <mdopencaptioning@gmail.com>, Howard Rosenblum - Deaf Equality
<howard.rosenblum@deafequality.org>

Subject: Support for Maryland Open-Captioned Movies Bill (HB 1363)

Dear Maryland Open-Captioned Movies Bill Committee,

I, Diane McDonagh, President of ALDA (Association of Late-Deafened Adults), fully support the Maryland Open-Captioned Movies Bill (HB 1363). Equal access to movies is essential for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened communities, ensuring that everyone has the same opportunity to enjoy films without barriers.

On behalf of ALDA, we stand in support of this bill and advocate for accessible and inclusive entertainment for all.

Sincerely,
Diane McDonagh
President, ALDA

CC: Howard Rosenblum(Advocacy Chair, ALDA)

**Diane McDonagh**

ALDA President

President@alda.org<http://alda.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

HCAD Senate Bill 1363.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



March 28, 2025

Senate Bill 1363

Places of Public Accommodation - Captioning for Motion Pictures Houses - Alterations

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Favorable

On behalf of the Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD), we respectfully urge your support for **Senate Bill 1363 – the Open Captioning Bill**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill would require all motion picture houses to offer open captioning for each screening at movie theaters that hold four or more screenings of a film.

Currently, Maryland law mandates open captioning only for theaters with eight or more screenings, limiting access for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Reducing the threshold to four screenings will significantly expand accessibility, particularly in smaller and rural counties outside the metropolitan area, where options for captioned screenings are even more limited.

For these reasons, HCAD respectfully requests a **favorable report** on SB 1363.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Board of the Howard County Association of the Deaf

MDAD Letter Written Testimony HB 1363 Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



Maryland Association of the Deaf
Written Testimony
HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation - Captioning for
Motion Picture Houses - Alterations
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Position: Favorable

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The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) is a statewide organization that protects the interests of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Marylanders concerning accessibility and equity issues. Currently, there are approximately 1.2 million of these individuals living in the State of Maryland.

MDAD is advocating for the passage of the HB 1363 sponsored by Delegate Bhandari regarding movie theater captioning. This bill requires that movie theaters with four or more screens provide open captioning for a minimum of two screenings each week. This effort would help further expand access to open captioned (OC) movies particularly in Western Maryland, North Central Maryland, Southern Maryland, and Eastern Shore areas. In addition, Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing customers and/or those with neurodivergent conditions from the surrounding states of Delaware, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia would more likely patronize the theaters in these areas. They will bring in additional revenue into the State of Maryland beyond its borders.

It is vital that the State of Maryland continues to take the helm in ensuring that movie theaters provide open captioning accessibility. The practice of providing closed captioning devices (glasses et al) has historically been riddled with numerous and documented issues such as malfunctions and physical/mental wear and tear for users. These devices have been proven to not contribute at all to an enjoyable and inclusive movie-going experience—stripping users of the ability to remain invisible and maintain their dignity.

As a reminder, open captioned movies benefit not just the Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing customers and those with neurodivergent conditions, but a larger segment of the movie-going public—including but not limited to—children, senior citizens, and those learning English as a second language. MDAD looks forward to a favorable report on HB 1363.

Thank you,

MDAD Board of Directors

MDCC HB 1363 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



PO Box 4131
Frederick, MD 21705

240-560-5028

www.deafmdcc.org

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March 1, 2025

Dear Members of Economic Matters Committee and the State of Maryland Legislation

The Board of the Maryland Deaf Community (MDCC) strongly encourages you all to support House Bill 1363 (Open Captioning Movie Bill) for the benefit of the deaf community in the state of Maryland. This bill will provide accessibility for all people of hearing loss that needs to read captions on film.. For years, people with hearing loss were not able to enjoy the benefits of watching movies on the big screen and then later they needed to wear cumbersome devices to read captions and now there is open captioning like what we have on tv shows. This gives the people who have hearing loss full accessibility just like their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1363.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Lally Secretary of MDCC Board

Linda Stoltz, President of MDCC Board

MDSC Support for Open Captioning Bill 1363.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



MDSC

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens

www.mddeafseniors.org

2024-2025

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February 28, 2025

House Bill 1363
Places of Public Accommodation-Captioning for Motion Pictures
Houses-Alterations
Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc, we respectfully urge your support for House Bill 1363, the Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill would require all motion picture houses to offer open captioning for each screening at movie theatres that hold four or more screenings of a film.

Currently Maryland law mandates open captioning for movie theatres with eight or more screenings, limiting access for members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Mandating movie theatres with four or more screenings will significantly expand accessibility, particularly in smaller and rural countries outside the metropolitan areas.

This bill presents a win-win situation for both the moviegoers and theatres alike. It ensures inclusivity and provides greater access to entertainment for everyone.

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc respectfully request a favorable report on HB1363.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With warm regards,

Janet Weinstock
Janet Weinstock
MDSC President

Lisa Skaggs
Lisa Skaggs
MDSC Secretary

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

MSADA HB1363 - Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



Judicial Proceedings Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, MD 21401

April 1, 2025

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Payal Sweet, the Acting President of Metro South Asian Deaf Association. I respectfully request that you support HB 1363 - Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari.

It proposes changing the number of movie theater screens from 8 to 4. This would allow moviegoers to enjoy OC movies more smoothly at movie theaters with 4 or more screens, rather than requiring theaters with 8 or more screens. This change would benefit moviegoers in Southern MD, Western MD, and other regions.

It ensures a compliant resolution to make movie theaters adhere to Maryland law, with fines or penalties for non-compliance. (We have already established an office to oversee complaints and have included an amendment that allows moviegoers to directly submit complaints to the office. Action would be taken immediately to instruct movie theaters to comply with the law or face fines or penalties.)

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

Peacefully,

Metro South Asian Deaf Association (MSADA) Acting President

MSD C - PTCA - HB1363 Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV

MSD
Columbia
P·T·C·A·

Parent, Teacher, Community Association

April 1, 2025

Dear Maryland Legislators,

I am Meredith DeSomma, proudly serving as the President of the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) - Columbia Parent, Teacher, Community Association (PTCA). I am writing on behalf of the PTCA to express our support for HB 1363, titled "Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses; Alterations," sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This important bill requires motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

MSD Columbia serves many students from various counties across Maryland. Many students from areas like Hartford County, Queen Anne's County, St. Mary's County, and Baltimore City, do not have access to movie theaters with eight or more screens, which limits their ability to attend films that lack open captioning. This situation places them at a disadvantage compared to others who have access to theaters that provide this service.

Furthermore, the PTCA community and I strongly believe that this bill will benefit not only our students but also our staff and families, as well as the wider community outside MSD. Open captioning greatly aids children and adults in their language development and literacy skills. Additionally, it supports senior citizens, veterans, the deaf and hard of hearing, as well as individuals with auditory processing disorders and other medical conditions.

We urge you to support HB 1363, "Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses; Alterations."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meredith DeSomma

President, MSD Columbia PTCA

ptca@msd.edu

MSDF PTA Open Captioning Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: MDAD President MDAD President

Position: FAV



**Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick
Parent Staff Association**

101 Clarke Place
Frederick, Maryland 21701
MSDFPSA@gmail.com
Website: <https://bit.ly/msdfpsa>

February 25, 2025

To the Maryland Senate and House Committee Members,

On behalf of our organization, I am writing to express my strong support for the implementation of open captions across the state of Maryland (House Bill 1363), particularly in theaters with four or more screens.

Open captions are essential for ensuring that all individuals, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, can fully participate in and enjoy the movie-going experience. By providing open captions, theaters can make their venues accessible to a wider audience and create a more inclusive environment for all.

In an era where inclusivity and accessibility are increasingly recognized as fundamental rights, it is imperative that theaters take proactive steps to address the needs of individuals with disabilities. Open captions are a simple and effective way to achieve this goal.

Furthermore, open captions benefit not only individuals with hearing loss but also those who may be learning English as a second language or who simply prefer to read along with the dialogue. By providing open captions, theaters can enhance the movie-going experience for everyone.

I urge you to consider the implementation of open captions across Maryland, particularly in theaters with four or more screens. This measure would send a strong message of inclusivity and accessibility, and it would make a significant difference in the lives of many individuals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Amanda Amati
President, MSDF PSA
Tax #81-5125642

1-50.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nkiruka Akunwafor and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nkiruka Akunwafor
msnkikia@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jessica Aiello and I am Hearing and learning English as a second language. 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 am a child of Deaf adults and this is incredibly important to me and my family. Open captioning and accessibility for all and is also extremely important for literacy across all ages.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Aiello
Jessica.Aiello@tcsteams.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 Kamaldeen Alabi and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kamaldeen Alabi
akaoy2k@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kafayat Alabi
princess_akat@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kay Amos and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week and submit a monthly report to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights and the State of Maryland Attorney General.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kay Amos
sandrakayamos@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Flora Amwayi
damaish@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karen Averett and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Karen Averett
klsheffer@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Conard Baer and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Conard Baer
conradbaer@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Larissa Baer and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Larissa Baer
larissaecbaer@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carol Baker
canport88@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nat Balsley and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nat Balsley
bladezone@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joi Bannister and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Joi Bannister
joi.bannister@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Debra Bare-Rogers 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.

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 started losing my hearing in 2013. Since then I have had to relearn how to best communicate with and understand the hearing world around me. Things are so noisy; oftentimes I can't catch the conversation or speech during social events even WITH hearing aids. I rely on asking for help, and using captions when attending conferences, movies, or meetings (of more than 3 people, and usually added environmental noises), even on Zoom! Open captions would help make the playing field a little more equal, IMO. If more places offered open captions, I could go to more events- without having to go through the process of: 1- reaching out to request accommodations/captions, 2- following up and learning that my request was lost 3- checking in again, then providing captioning resources in hopes that they will be utilized, 4- going to the event and (many times, many times) finding out that they either a) weren't set-up/scheduled or b) aren't working. I can't count the number of times I have arrived early to an event only to be asked "You seem to talk and understand me ok; it will work without captions, right?" NO. I don't request captions to hear myself think or make more work for myself. Just have open captions, so anyone who needs them (deaf, hard of hearing, have undiagnosed hearing loss, or other abilities which could benefit from written text) can enjoy the same experiences as anyone else.

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

Sincerely,

Debra Bare-Rogers

rd1@alda.org

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Beaumont and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Beaumont
ghgbeaumont@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Susan Beaver and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Susan Beaver
Susanbeaver155@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maureen Behrens and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Maureen Behrens
aslnature64@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Suzi Behun and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Suzi Behun
suzi@behun.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Holly Bentz and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Holly Bentz
chinadoll009@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tiasha Bera 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,

Tiasha Bera
deafrulers@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 Berry and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

John Berry
jpberry@cruiseplanners.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Annette Black and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Annette Black
annettelblack@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Blair
Cblair894@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Karen Blanchard and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Karen Blanchard
seadog2847@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Linda Boland
lmb49va@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Amy Bopp and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Amy Bopp
bopp56@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marcy Borneman, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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,

Marcy Borneman
Marcy.Borneman45@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 Chuck Bowie and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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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,

Chuck Bowie
Cebowie83@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 Noelle Brilliant-Humm and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Noelle Brilliant-Humm
noellebrillant@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Vanishe Buchanan and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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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,

Vanishe Buchanan
vanishe.buchanan@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 Heidi Burghardt and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Burghardt
HABurghardt@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leslie Caldwell and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Leslie Caldwell
lrcaldwell29@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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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,

Jesscia Chavis
jesschavis@ymail.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 Bradley Christlieb and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Everyone seeking clarity – Accents, technical jargon, or unclear audio can make understanding difficult; captions bridge this gap.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Bradley Christlieb
Bedale@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Charles Clark and I am Hearing with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Charles Clark
charles.amadeus.clark@gmail.com

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 Clark and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mary Clark
maryclark80@gmail.com

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 Collins and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Collins
Splndrngrss@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 Shannon Cooley and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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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,

Shannon Cooley
ms.shannoncooley@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 Sheryl Cooper and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sheryl Cooper
fingerworks1@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joseph Cordero, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Cordero
mjmjhcordero@verizon.net

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Melissa Cordero, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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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,

Melissa Cordero
mjmjhcordero@verizon.net

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ruth Cote and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Ruth Cote
racote43@comcast.net

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kim Craig and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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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,

Kim Craig
kimmariee@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 Rymingtahn Daniels and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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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,

Rymingtahn Daniels
rymingtahn@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 Gabrielle Davis and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis
GDavis3115@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jerome Davis and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jerome Davis
JDDavis14@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Blaise Delahoussaye and I am DeafBlind. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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,

Blaise Delahoussaye
wolfrog65@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 Emily DePaul Young and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Calvert County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Emily DePaul Young
lilybug32311@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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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,

Abby DePaul
abbydepaul@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 Chris DeSomma and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

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

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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,

Chris DeSomma
cdesgt67@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 Meredith DeSomma and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

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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,

Meredith DeSomma
mdutchy81@gmail.com

102-152.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Barbara Martin and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Martin
bjmartin626@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelly McCully and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shelly McCully
shelly.mccully@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McGlone
elizabethgiraldi@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kevin McLeod and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kevin McLeod
deafscribe@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alexander McLin and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Alexander McLin
alex.mclin@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cindy Meadows and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Meadows
Annajoeymom@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Philip Mecham and I am Deaf with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Philip Mecham
signsparksync@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nancy Meyers and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Meyers
Nannie812@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Molly Mirchandani and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Molly Mirchandani
molypfeifer@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kitty Monahan-Sewell and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kitty Monahan-Sewell
itsjustmskitty@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Judith Mounty and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Judith Mouny
jmouny@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jill Naumann and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jill Naumann
Jdnover@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sarah Nelinson and I am DeafBlind. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Nelinson
chef.nelinson@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Erik Nordlof and I am Deaf.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Erik Nordlof
enordlof@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joseph Obermiller and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Obermiller
lobermiller@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jodi Oliveri and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

I have been using closed captions while watching TV since I was a child, due to my auditory processing disorder. I wear earplugs in movie theaters because the noise (distorted speech) is difficult for me to follow along with dialog in the movie theaters. Open Captioned Movies will benefit me and others!

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

Sincerely,

Jodi Oliveri
jodioliveri@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Ormont and I am with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

I had idiopathic sensorineural hearing loss in one ear, it has mostly recovered but not 100%. Even if my hearing is 100%, I can be slow on the uptake due to ADHD. Captions help me so much because I can read and process much faster than I can hear.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ormont
cranwellra@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michelle Ottinger and I am Deaf.

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

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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 support bills that promote the use of open captioned movies. While using devices for captioning can be more expensive and unsanitary, I prefer open captioning screenings for several reasons. Firstly, the larger screen size and easier visibility make it more accessible to people with visual impairments. Secondly, it's free to turn on captions on the screen, which is a significant advantage. As someone who wears thick glasses and has severe astigmatism, on-screen captions are particularly beneficial for me. They provide a more inclusive and accessible viewing experience for a wider range of people.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Ottinger
michelyn85@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rita Owens and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

Captions are beneficial for many hearing people, too. It'd be helpful to get captioned movies during evenings or weekends instead of daytime as most of deaf people work full time.

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

Sincerely,

Rita Owens
nkowens@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Robert Padden and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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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 Padden
Paddenrmkk@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cynthia Pettie and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pettie
cynpeters@comcast.net

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mallory Pettis and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

This bill will make such a difference in the lives of many people in the MD deaf community, including my father. There is a wonderful, large deaf community in Maryland that will greatly benefit from having more options for entertainment and communal activities.

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

Sincerely,

Mallory Pettis
Mallory.Pettis@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michael Pilson and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

I love to attend any open captioned movies at cinemas without using vision devices. I feel a lot of freedom like other hearing people attend movies. The vision device is annoying to bring that looks too silly. I'd like to see more open captioned movies available in more locations nearby so that we can enjoy them as much as possible.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Pilson
mhpilson@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Pilson and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

I love going to see the movies in the theater and being able to enjoy watching open captioned movies fully accessible.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pilson
repilson@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Vikki Porter and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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 believe we need to decrease the number of screens required in order to have expanded access to more OC movie options.

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

Sincerely,

Vikki Porter
porter.vikki.l@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Theresa Posthuma and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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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,

Theresa Posthuma
taposthuma@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mike Purkey and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico County.

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

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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 the executive director for an agency that serves deaf and hard of hearing constituents this bill will create more access to our population on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We tend to only have a few theatres in our area and most commonly they are more than 8 screens. Having this limit down to 4 would ensure accessibility to this population in our area.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Purkey
mike.purkey@dila.org

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sheila Ray and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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,

Sheila Ray
snerdboff@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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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,

Richard Rice
dstrngr@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ben Rivlin and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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,

Ben Rivlin
brivlin@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Alan Rogers, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Alan Rogers
Ajrogers1957@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brian Rogers and I am DeafBlind. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Brian Rogers
netbcr@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Natalie Rosen and I am Hearing with neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

It's not just my own hearing and auditory processing. The sound mixing in Hollywood films has objectively worsened in recent years, and I, along with many others, simply cannot enjoy a movie without subtitles. This keeps me away from movie theaters. I'd like to go to movie theaters again.

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

Sincerely,

Natalie Rosen
nat.han.rosen@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jerry Sansonese and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

My daughter is deaf and should have access to the same opportunities as a hearing person.

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

Sincerely,

Jerry Sansonese
gsans@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sophia Satre and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

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

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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.

One time I used a caption device to see what it was like since I was with some deaf friends. It was such a headache and I didn't feel like it was a fair experience at the movies. Open captions on screen would be much preferred.

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

Sincerely,

Sophia Satre
satre.sms@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ismella Saul-Jones and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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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 more open caption movies, the better than using the glasses because sometimes it does not always charge and ends up replacing and missing half of the movie. I would like to enjoy the movie without anything blocking my view or using double glasses.

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

Sincerely,

Ismella Saul-Jones
ismella.saul@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ruth Ann Schornstein and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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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 only been to movies about 5 times in my life as I am now 78 year old because we had to wear glasses but I have double vision added to my deafness.

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

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Schornstein
ascul@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Thelma Schroeder and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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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 supporting the Open Captioning Movie Bill, which aims to reduce the required number of movie screens from 8 to 4, particularly for counties with fewer than 8 screens. This bill will enable both deaf and hearing residents to enjoy movies together. As the number of people experiencing hearing loss increases, this measure will ensure they can fully understand and appreciate the films being shown.

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

Sincerely,

Thelma Schroeder
tiggy668@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mae Sellers and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mae Sellers
maesellers@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dahlia Shaewitz and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dahlia Shaewitz
dahlshae@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Crystal Sisk and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Crystal Sisk
csisk1994@gmail.com

March 4, 2025
April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Skaggs and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

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

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

I want equal access to watching movies like anyone else. It is fun watching movies with friends. Open captioning provides reading skills for everyone. Inclusion is a beautiful feeling.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Skaggs
ljskaggs58@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rosemond Skeete and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rosemond Skeete
Subb08880@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Courtney Stagle and I am Hearing with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Courtney Stagle
terp.courtney@gmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carolyn Snyder-Mason and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carolyn Snyder-Mason
cksmason@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Pauline Spanbauer and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Pauline Spanbauer
pes00@hotmail.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michael Stancil and I am Deaf with learning English as a second language. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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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,

Michael Stancil
Mpkafkan@aol.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kevin Steffy and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

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

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,

Kevin Steffy
Kevinrsteffy@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rachel Stesch and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Stesch
rstesch@yahoo.com

April 1, 2025

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Linda Stoltz and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Linda Stoltz
Linda.Stoltz@deafmdcc.org

153-185.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

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.

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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 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.

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.

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.

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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 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.

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 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.

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

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

I want to 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

51-101.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith DeSomma

Position: FAV

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.

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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 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.

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

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

Please 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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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 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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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,

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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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,

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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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,

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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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,

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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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,

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.

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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 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.

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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,

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.

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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,

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.

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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 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.

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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 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.

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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,

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.

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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 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.

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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 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 need 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

HB1361-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB1363

April 1, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 1363 - Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning Motion Pictures Houses – Alterations

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on House Bill (HB) 1363.

HB 1363 lowers the number of screens a cinema must have before it is required to provide open movie captioning from eight to four. Open-captioning means that Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can read the dialogue on the big screen rather than use small captioning devices which interfere with the viewing experience. As it stands without the passage of this bill, no cinema within Baltimore City is required to offer open-captioning screenings. This bill amends that issue and makes Baltimore City theaters more accessible.

This will better serve the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, including many Baltimore seniors, so that they too can fully enjoy the big screen experience. Over time, the BCA anticipates that two open-captioning screenings per week in Baltimore cinemas will draw viewers who would otherwise stay home to watch a movie, increasing both business and serve the cause of better accessibility.

Having the dialogue on the big screen enhances the movie-going experience for a variety of individuals.

While there may be some resistance to legislation this for fear of an adverse financial impact, such screenings, particularly if offered at the more attractive times, would actually increase the overall audience because it would also be more accessible to seniors and persons for whom English is a second language, boosting the overall customer base of cinemas.

Due to the above reasons, the Baltimore City Administration on Disabilities respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 1363.

HB1363.Council.Support.CF.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

HB 1363: Places of Public Accommodation - Captioning for Motion Picture Houses - Alterations

April 1, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. Our vision is that people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together. We support HB 1363 as another important step to ensure more Marylanders can live a life they want with meaningful access to movies in their communities.

Background

- The federal Americans with Disabilities Act requires places of public accommodation, like movie theaters, to be accessible to people with disabilities. Most movie theaters have closed movie captions systems for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Closed movie captions provide individual viewers access to captions on a device provided by a movie theater.
- Last year the General Assembly passed HB 426/SB92 which requires movie theaters with eight or more screens to provide open movie captions at least twice a week for each movie in the theater. This is required for **the three weeks following a movie's release**. Open movie captions provide all viewers access to captions on the movie screen.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Changes the open movie captions requirement from movie theaters with eight screens to movie theaters with four screens.
- Also requires movie theaters to send a monthly report to the Commission on Civil Rights and Attorney General on the dates and number of times a movies had closed movie captions and open movie captions in the preceding month.

WHY is this legislation important?

- Video captions benefit everyone. Multiple studies have found that captioned videos increase comprehension, attention, and memory for everyone: children, youth, and adults. Research also finds benefits for people with disabilities, people for whom English is not their first language, and children and adults learning to read.
- A state-wide mandate supports making recreation accessible to everyone, regardless of where they live. The Americans with Disabilities Act and subsequent DOJ rulings have required access to captions in most workplaces and education settings without using an auxiliary device

(i.e., a handheld transmitter for captions like those required in close movie captions). This bill expands access to make recreation inclusive for all Marylanders regardless of where they live in the state and which movie theaters are in their communities.

- The current practice of relying on auxiliary devices for closed captions or to arrange for open captions ahead of time in movie theaters creates undue hardship on audience members. A reasonable accommodation is defined as making a place of public accommodation suitable for access, use, and patronage by an individual with a disability without danger to the **individual's health or safety and undue hardship or expense to the person making the** accommodation. Testimony on this bill for the last several years offers repeated examples of the burden on people seeking captions at movie theaters under current practices. This bill will increase accessibility and reduce the burden on patrons.

It is critical that people with disabilities have full access to every recreational option available, without barriers to access or inclusion, including movies. For these reasons, the Council supports HB 1363.

Contact: Dr. Stephanie Dolamore, Deputy Director, SDolamore@md-council.org

Open Captioning Testimony (2).docx (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Usherla DeBerry

Position: FAV

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor



Usherla DeBerry
Director

HB 1363 MOTION PICTURE HOUSES - CAPTIONING - ALTERATIONS

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
DIRECTOR USHERLA DEBERRY, Ed.S.**

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

Senator William C. Smith Jr., Chair

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair

April 1, 2025

Good Afternoon, Chair and Distinguished members of the committee. I am Director Usherla DeBerry of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am honored to be here to provide testimony in support of the bill before you. As a representative of an office that supports the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, I believe this bill is a significant step in ensuring equitable access to all media for all Maryland residents, especially those in the Deaf community and Hard of Hearing.

The proposed changes are an important adjustment that will expand access. By reducing the number of screens needed to trigger the mandatory movie captioning, smaller theaters can meet the threshold making more theaters accessible. It will also create a more manageable requirement for larger theaters.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support this bill for the benefit of all Marylanders, ensuring that movie theaters are accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The ability to enjoy films and other media is an experience that should be a basic right for all. This bill ensures that everyone can enjoy these experiences equally.

Thank you,

Usherla DeBerry

HB 1363_UNF_Mid-Atlantic NATO_4.1.2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Doug Murdoch

Position: UNF



**HB 1363 – Places of Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses -
Alterations**

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 1, 2025

Opposed

On behalf of Mid-Atlantic NATO, a regional Association of Theatre Owners, representing movie theatres throughout Maryland, Virginia and DC, we respectfully submit these written comments in opposition to HB 1363.

Unnecessary and Burdensome Requirements

HB 1363 would add an unnecessary new requirement to Maryland's existing Captioning Law that would be impractical and add an undue burden to movie theatres. Specifically, all covered theatres would be required to report monthly on the number of closed movie captioned showtimes as well as the number of open captioned showtimes in the prior month, and they would be required to report all their showtimes for both open captioned and closed caption shows for the month.

- From a practical standpoint, this would not coincide with the weekly requirements of the law nor fit a theatre operation. Theatres operate on a weekly basis, not monthly, and the law has weekly requirements as well.
- With rare exception, all non-open captioned showtimes have closed captioning available as required by federal guidelines, so there would be no benefit to gather this information. As for the open captioned showtimes, they are available for public review on theatre websites daily.
- Looking back at a previous month would be time-consuming and impractical, as the weekly requirements of the law would overlap into different months. Collecting and reporting all this information would add labor costs to the theatres that can ill afford additional costs as they struggle to stay financially viable.
- From a volume standpoint, the state would be collecting 12 months of reports from the 53 locations covered in the bill. That would equate to almost 650 reports, and there would be upwards of over 850,000 showtimes reported over a year. (551 screens in the state x average of 30 shows per week x 52 weeks = 859,956 showtimes per year.) Having the Commission on Civil Rights and the Attorney General office collect and review these numerous reports would be extremely time consuming and add labor costs to the state and the movie theatres.
- Requiring showtime reporting is both costly and unnecessary for compliance purposes. Under existing Maryland law, a single failure to comply is sufficient for enforcement purposes.



Expansion of Open Captioning in Maryland

Currently there are 39 locations with 8 screens or more covered by Maryland's existing Captioning Law, for a total of 473 screens. HB 1363 would lower the 8 screens threshold to 4, adding an additional 14 locations in the state, with 78 more screens, bringing the total to 53 locations, 551 screens. Maryland has only two locations with less than 4 screens. Both are non-profit and already play open captioned shows voluntarily.

With the passage of HB 1363, we estimate that Maryland's movie theatres would play almost 50,000 Open Caption Showings annually, well in excess of consumer demand.

Collaboration and Commitment

Maryland's movie theaters are committed to access for individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing. For over 25 years, the movie theater industry has collaborated with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, advocacy groups, film studios, and technology developers to achieve access to all feature films at all times.

Moviegoers in Maryland seeking captions have the flexibility to view a movie with captions at any showtime, on any day. In 2016, the Department of Justice issued a final rule requiring digital movie theaters to provide closed movie captioning equipment. The DOJ adopted the majority of recommendations set forth in an agreement between the National Association of Theatre Owners and major advocacy groups, including the Hearing Loss Association of America and the National Association of the Deaf. Through these collaborative efforts, today, digital movie theaters in Maryland offer closed movie captioning devices (allowing text to be viewable by an individual moviegoer) that can be used at any show time for any movie that comes with closed movie captions.

Mid-Atlantic NATO had worked with the sponsor of HB 1363 prior to a House Hearing held on March 4, 2025, and together with deaf or hard of hearing advocates, had mutually agreed to remove the section on the reporting requirements. For whatever reason, the prepared amendment never made its way to the committee and was not considered when they gave a favorable report.

State of the Industry

Movie theaters in the state of Maryland continue to face economic challenges due to the lasting impacts of the pandemic and the Hollywood strikes. While the industry is slowly on a path to recovery, theaters are continually working to stabilize their businesses, and any additional regulations at this stage would place further strain on operators as they move forward.



The Status of Maryland Movie Theatres

Despite slight gains in attendance numbers from when theatres were shuttered due to the pandemic, 2024 box office admissions in Maryland remained at least 27.4% lower for the year than they were pre-pandemic, and even lower than they were in 2023. It will likely take years for Maryland theatres to recover their pandemic related losses and the Hollywood labor strikes only further compounded the issue by limiting new product in 2024.

In the last twenty-four months two large theatre operators closed six significant Maryland locations and since the pandemic numerous other smaller operators left Maryland including ArcLight Cinemas, Bow Tie Cinemas, CMX/CinéBistro, New Vision Theatres, and Northeast/Hoyts Cinema.

Most recently, the AMC Lexington Park closed on March 5, 2025, while the Regal Theatre in Germantown and the Next Act Theatre in Pikesville closed permanently in December of 2024. The start of 2025 has already been the worst for Maryland's movie theatres in recent years, and theatre film supply continues to be affected by direct to streaming and Hollywood's recent labor strikes. Adding showtime and reporting requirements will directly and negatively impact the continuing financial viability of the remaining Maryland theaters.

A full listing of Maryland Movie Theatres covered by the current law, those that would be added by HB 1363, and those that recently closed in the state follows these comments.

For further information, please contact Manny Geraldo (202.924.4386, mgeraldo@cgagroup.com) or Christopher Dews (301.412.25399, cdews@cgagroup.com) of Cornerstone Government Affairs, registered lobbyists for Mid-Atlantic NATO, or Doug Murdoch, Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic NATO (443.895.1446, doug@midatlanticnato.com)



MARYLAND MOVIE THEATRES - Open Captioning

	Name	Location	Screens
1	Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD	Hanover	24
2	Regal Majestic 20	Silver Spring	20
3	AMC Dine-In Rio Cinemas 18	Gaithersburg	18
4	AMC Owings Mills 17	Owings Mills	17
5	AMC Loews White Marsh 16	Baltimore	16
6	AMC Montgomery 16	Bethesda	16
7	Regal Salisbury Stadium 16 and RPX	Salisbury	16
8	Regal Valley Mall Movies 16	Hagerstown	16
9	Regal Westview Stadium 16 and IMAX	Frederick	16
10	Cinemark Towson and XD	Towson	15
11	AMC Columbia 14	Columbia	14
12	Cinemark Snowden River	Columbia	14
13	Regal Hyattsville Royale 14	Hyattsville	14
14	Xscape Theaters 14	Brandywine	14
15	Regal Rockville Center Stadium 13	Rockville	13
16	AMC Magic Johnson Capital Centre 12 and IMAX	Largo	12
17	AMC Rivertowne 12	Oxon Hill	12
18	R/C Lexington Exchange Movies 12	California	12
19	Regal Hunt Valley Stadium 12	Hunt Valley	12
20	Regal Laurel Towne Centre 12	Laurel	12
21	Regal Waugh Chapel Stadium 12 & IMAX	Gambrills	12
22	AMC Annapolis Mall 11	Annapolis	11
23	Flagship East Point 10 Cinemas	Baltimore	10
24	Warehouse Cinemas Frederick	Frederick	10
25	Warehouse Cinemas Leitersburg	Hagerstown	10
26	AMC St. Charles Town Center 9	Waldorf	9
27	AMC Wheaton Mall 9	Wheaton	9
28	Cinapolis Gaithersburg 9	Gaithersburg	9
29	Landmark Annapolis Harbour 9	Annapolis	9
30	R/C Westminster 9	Westminster	9
31	AMC Academy 8	Greenbelt	8
32	AMC Loews Centerpark 8	Beltsville	8
33	AMC Security Square 8	Baltimore	8
34	Garrett 8 Cinemas	Oakland	8
35	Golden Star Country Club Cinemas	La Vale	8
36	Horizon Aberdeen	Aberdeen	8
37	Horizon Marley Station Movies	Glen Burnie	8
38	IPic Bethesda Pike & Rose	Bethesda	8
39	Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema	Bethesda	8
39 Locations Currently Covered		Total Screens	473



MARYLAND MOVIE THEATRES - Open Captioning to be added by HB 1363			
1	Flagship Churchville 7	Churchville	7
2	Flagship Harbor East Cinema	Baltimore	7
3	Flagship Ocean City	Ocean City	7
4	Horizon Fallston	Fallston	7
5	Warehouse Cinemas Rotunda	Baltimore	7
6	Phoenix Big Cinemas Marlow 6	Temple Hills	6
7	Triton Easton Premier Cinemas	Easton	6
8	Flagship Calvert Village Movies	Prince Frederick	5
9	Flagship Chester 5 Cinemas	Chestertown	5
10	The Charles Theatre	Baltimore	5
11	Gold Coast Theatre	Ocean City	4
12	R/C Hollywood Cinema 4	Arbutus	4
13	The Senator Theatre	Baltimore	4
14	Triton Cambridge Premier Cinema 4	Cambridge	4
14 Locations to be added by HB 1363		Total Additional	78
53 Total Locations with Open Captioning		Total Screens	557

CLOSED				
1	Fox Theatres Sun & Surf 8	Ocean City, MD	8	Closed September 5, 2022
2	Hoyts West Nursery Cinemas 14	Linthicum Heights, MD	14	Closed January 2023
3	Parkway Theatre	Baltimore	3	Closed early 2023
4	Horizon Cinemas Beltway Movies 8	Fullerton, MD	8	Closed February 2023
5	Regal Cinemas Bowie 14	Bowie, MD	14	Closed April 2023
6	Regal Cinemas Bel Air Stadium 14	Bel Air, MD	14	Closed July 2023
7	Horizon Cinemas Sun Valley 6	Glen Burnie, MD	6	Closed September 2024
8	Regal Cinemas Germantown 14	Germantown, MD	14	Closed December 2024
9	Next Act Cinemas	Pikesville, MD	2	Closed December 2024
10	AMC Loews Lexington Park 6	Lexington Park	6	Closed March 5, 2025

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Uploaded by: Tiffany Clark

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Chief, Equity, Policy, and Engagement

April 1, 2025

TO: The Honorable William Smith
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1363 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for
Motion Picture Houses – Alterations – **Letter of Information**

The Office of Attorney General (OAG) respectfully offers this letter of information to the Judicial Proceedings Committee on **House Bill 1363** - Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning for Motion Picture Houses – Alterations. **House Bill 1363** extends statutory provisions that govern movie captioning requirements to apply to a motion picture house with at least four screens and requires motion picture houses that are places of public accommodation to report to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights and the Attorney General on certain metrics.

The OAG has concerns with the reporting requirement established in **House Bill 1363**. More specifically, the bill requires certain motion picture houses to report certain metrics to the MCCR and the Attorney General monthly. The OAG does not have a database to receive these reports, nor is there clear language in the bill that explains what OAG is supposed to do with the information in the reports once the reports are received.

The OAG has spoken with a member of the Sponsor's staff who stated that there are amendments being submitted to the Committee that would remove this reporting requirement from the bill. If these amendments are accepted by the Committee, the OAG would no longer have concerns.

The OAG urges the Committee to consider this issue carefully as it deliberates on the passage of **House Bill 1363**.

cc: The Honorable Delegate Bhandari