

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Michael Seidman, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I am not a Maryland resident.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Michael Seidman
mas12806@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Christopher Sewell, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 is the only and best way to watch movies in the theaters. Other systems often have glitches that ruin the experiences.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sewell
itschrissewell@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections 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 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 grew up with Deaf parents who were denied access to television and film for most of their lives. When captions were introduced to television it opened up a world of social awareness and connection for our family! I grew up watching captions on television and frankly, I cannot watch TV or movies without it! It is like every other accommodation -- what works for people with disabilities works for EVERYONE! I never miss the whispered comments, and I understand the nuances of music in the background, thanks to captioned films and TV.

Movie theaters may not understand that for many people--those with hearing impairments and even those without--captioning is a huge benefit to understanding and learning. True inclusion is All means All. Please support this bill to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the broad range of arts, learning, and community that is on offer.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Dahlia Shaewitz
dahlshae@aol.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Shifra Shaulson, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Shifra Shaulson
shifra120@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Katherine Shenoy, and I am Deaf. I am not a Maryland resident.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Katherine Shenoy
katdeaf@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Melanue Sifuentes, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Melanue Sifuentes
Melcalsif@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Bharat Singh, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Bharat Singh
bharat@msada-dc.org

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is William Sinnott, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

William Sinnott
colonelwill@verizon.net

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

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

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Crystal Sisk
Csisk1994@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

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

I am writing to request your support for **SB 259 – Places of Public Accommodation** – I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 captioning provides full access for everyone who loves to read and improve their English. It provides an inclusive environment for everyone.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Lisa Skaggs
ljskaggs58@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections 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 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Skeete
subb08880@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Skipper, and I am Hearing. I live in Garrett County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

My daughter has moderate nerve damage hearing loss. She wears hearing aids, but the auditory processing is still hard for her. We have to wait until movies are out of theaters for her to see them so we can add subtitles on the tv at home. Giving her the option to go to the movies like any other teenager would be amazing!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Skipper
elizabethannskipper@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Marcus Smith, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Charles County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

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

The struggle to have captions provided on screen as regular access to captions at the movies. I'm excited for the opportunity to be a part of the change and we can do it because many people want and need this accommodation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Marcus Smith
bizzz2814@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Alfred Sonnenstrahl, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 sat next to a hearing mid-aged woman while watching an open-captioned(OC) movie. At the end, I asked her what she thought of OC, she admitted she had to read them at times, especially in the midst of noisy scenes.

According to statistics, about 30-35% of people over 60 years old have hearing loss. Often they either don't realize or deny their hearing loss. With OC, they either realize or feel more comfortable with their hearing loss.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Alfred Sonnenstrahl
alsonny@icloud.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Sam Sonnenstrahl, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Sam Sonnenstrahl
samuel.Sonnenstrahl@gallaudet.edu

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Shanna Sorrells, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

Many years ago, as a child, I wrote a letter to Jack Valenti asking when ALL movies would be captioned because I had finally seen my first open captioned film and was THRILLED that I was able to participate and go to the movies with my friends and family. He wrote back and promised me that within 20 years time, I would see captions everywhere. It has now been 30 years, and while yes, there are closed captioning options, I still can't access it 100%. I had a concussion a year and a half ago, and now the closed captioning makes me dizzy and nauseated when I attend films. I now feel like that young Deaf child again, and can't say yes to going to movies anymore unless they are open captioned. Not just Deaf, but also hearing, hard-of-hearing, those with processing disorders, those learning English as a second language, ADHD, even people who just miss a word here and there, etc! benefit from open captions...people everywhere are utilizing captions now--it is not disruptive. It is clarifying, accessible, and opens up the world for so many.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Shanna Sorrells
sorrells1218@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Sylvie Soulier and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County..

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

My wife and son are deaf. It would be amazing if they could be guaranteed the same access that hearing people have. I use CC on my tv to help with not missing dialogue. Captioning is an asset to everyone. Please pass this. Let's do good for our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Soulier
Sylvie.soulier@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Amy Southwick, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 often miss spoken words despite my hearing aids and often cannot lip-read the dialog because of camera angle. Captions are a necessity for many of us. [Age 83]

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Amy Southwick
amysouthwick1942@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections 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 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Pauline Spanbauer
pes00@hotmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Regina Spence, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 would like to see movies that have open captions because sometimes the device doesn't work well and most are damaged depending how often used.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Regina Spence
msdivah70@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Matt Sprague and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Matt Sprague
mattspraguephotography@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Michael Stancil, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 add the open caption to all public cinemas if possible but can accept 4 screens more without using the equipment for closed caption. Everyone can enjoy watching the movies with as many movie options as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Michael Stancil
MPKafkan@aol.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Diana Steinhauser, and I am Hearing. I am not a Maryland resident.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Diana Steinhauser
peachnok@hotmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

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

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 closed 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 CC'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 435.

Sincerely,

Rachel Stesch
rstech@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Mickayla Stewart, and I am Hearing, A person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 the American Sign Language Club at my Alma mater because of the lack of accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing individuals on campus. As a hearing advocate, I urge everyone to include closed captions on every audio, especially on social media. Using a captioning device at a movie theater isn't the greatest experience either. I would know as someone who is neurodivergent. Captions and accessibility helps everyone. After all, texting was invented for deaf people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Mickayla Stewart
mickaylastewart@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Stone, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stone
lizstone@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Jarex Stoner, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 captioning movie is very important to me because I have been experiencing with device with glasses uncomfortable. I struggle with a battery problem, the product isn't working properly which causes the missing word. I do not understand the story. Plus I want to be fair with hearing people and deaf people as an equal access. Open captions are very helpful so I can understand what movies are happening and what people are saying and the action too. This open caption movie is extremely important for our deaf community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Jarex Stoner
jared.stoner1029@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Celeste Stull, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Celeste Stull
celswiney8@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Caroline Suggs, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Caroline Suggs
ThatCarrie@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Christina Suggs, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 experienced the frequent frustration of confirming a large movie theater (8 or more screens) has either closed or open captions on a movie before attending, only to find the screening doesn't have captions OR the closed caption equipment is broken/not charged/captions not turned on OR the theater has adjusted the projector so the captions are cut off. Add to that constant frustration in large movie theaters, the almost impossible feat of watching captioned films in smaller/indie/arthouse (4 or more screens) theaters. These theaters often don't even have closed captioning equipment let alone providing open captioned films. This would make a huge difference across Maryland - let's lead the way for access and set the standard for other states!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Christina Suggs
cwsuggs@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Trudy Suggs, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

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

As the Deaf mother to four Deaf children and the daughter of two Deaf senior citizens, open captioning has been a blessing for our family. We now can go watch movies as a family and not worry about dealing with clunky headgear that literally hurts our faces, covers our glasses, and is very conspicuous. However, we are still limited to very few film showing times, so we have to accommodate the theater's availability instead of the other way around. With this legislation, we'll have more options and be able to spend more time together as a family unit.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Trudy Suggs
trudysuggs@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Stephanie Summers, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 benefit everyone! It will allow us to feel inclusive!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Summers
srsummers4@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Nevy Sutee, and I am Hearing, 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 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Nevy Sutee
mysha_us@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Laura Sweeney, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 only go to movies that offer Open Captions. Other devices were useless.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Laura Sweeney
laurawsweeney@aol.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Payal Sweet, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

When I was growing up in Kansas, after from India, I never watched movies in a movie theater. There were no accessible options for me—no equipment, no assistance, and no captions. Movie theaters were simply not spaces where I felt included.

That changed years later when a Bollywood movie was released with open captions. I was incredibly excited. It wasn't my first movie ever, but it was the first time I truly experienced a movie theater with open captions. I didn't need to ask for special devices, worry about broken equipment, or depend on staff. Everything was clear, visible, and easy to follow. For the first time, the movie theater felt welcoming and accessible.

This experience shows why open captioning in Maryland is so important. Open captions allow Deaf people to enjoy movies independently and equally, just like everyone else. They also benefit many others, including people with auditory processing differences, non-native English speakers, children learning to read, and families watching together.

Accessibility should not depend on special requests or limited showtimes. Open captions create inclusion by default. Making open-captioned movies more widely available in Maryland ensures that Deaf people are not excluded from shared cultural experiences and can fully participate in community life.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Payal Sweet
payal@msada-dc.org

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Sandra Crovo, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

Calvert County needs one in California MD R/C Lexington Exchange Movies to provide Open Caption.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Sandra Crovo
SCrovo07@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Rana Taneja, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Rana Taneja
tanejar48@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Sherrie Tarry, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Tarry
starryann74@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Richard Thompson, and I am Deaf. I live in Charles County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Richard Thompson
deafsumo1@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Kathleen Todd, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Todd
lmas.guppy-5j@icloud.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Linda Tom, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

Everyday I watch the captions on TV. So, do the same thing with the movies (theaters).

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Linda Tom
lctom71@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Cathy Thompson and I am Deaf. I live in Charles County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Cathay Thompson
Gibberd56@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Kai Thompson, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 movie theaters, but I have anxiety that is activated in public places. In movies, I tend to get auditory overstimulation and sometimes it ruins the experience, and I might even leave early. Having the subtitles means I can regulate my auditory input, while still enjoying the experience.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Kai Thompson
krtrosie@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections 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 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Sunit Upadhyaya
sunitu1988@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Marlena Turner, and I am Hearing. I live in Somerset County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Marlena Turner
marlenaturner1970@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Dave Tilden, and I am Hearing. I am not a Maryland resident.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Dave Tilden
tildenmdave@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Deanna Tilden, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

There is currently no movie theater in Baltimore City with eight screens. Reducing the requirement to four or more screens would improve access for residents, especially those who need theaters closer to their homes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Deanna Tilden
dtilden86@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Kadie Tower, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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 435.

Sincerely,

Kadie Tower
kadietower@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Gregg Trainor, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

This is the 21st century and we, the deaf and hard of hearing people deserve better qualities in our life. OC movies are one of the keys of quality that we want to have in this century. So please approve the plans for OC movies!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Gregg Trainor
greggt78@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Hatim Vali, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **HB 435 – Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning**, sponsored by Delegate Harry 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.

Accessibility and availability are critical components of equality in the public/general community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Hatim Vali
deflgm@gmail.com