



February 12, 2026

Government, Labor, and Election Committee  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Government, Labor, and Election Committee:

The League for People with Disabilities strongly supports the passage of House Bill 435. This legislation would require motion picture houses with four or more screens to provide open movie captioning for a minimum of two screenings per week. This modest but meaningful requirement would significantly expand access to open-captioned films, particularly in underserved regions such as Western Maryland, North Central Maryland, Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore, and Baltimore City.

Beyond benefiting Maryland residents, the bill would attract Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing patrons—as well as those with neurodivergent conditions—from neighboring states including Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. These out-of-state visitors would generate additional revenue for Maryland theaters and the broader economy, turning accessibility into an economic advantage. It also supports children learning to read, senior citizens, and people learning English as a second language—enhancing the movie-going experience for diverse moviegoers without additional cost or complexity.

It is essential for Maryland to lead in ensuring true accessibility in public accommodations. Closed-captioning devices (such as captioning glasses and similar equipment) have long been plagued by documented problems, including frequent malfunctions, inconsistent availability, and significant physical and cognitive strain for users. These devices often fail to deliver an enjoyable, inclusive experience and can undermine users' dignity by making their disability visible in ways that open captions do not.

The League for People with Disabilities respectfully asks that you consider our input and the input of many other disability supporters as you consider HB 435. The approval of this bill can help improve the lives of all of us who live with hearing impairments. Thank you for your commitment to equity and inclusion.

Sincerely,

David A. Greenberg  
President & CEO  
The League for People with Disabilities