

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 Kalpana Varia and I am Deaf. 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,

Kalpana Varia
dharshiv15@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 Dominic Vera, 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,

Dominic Vera
domvera83@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 Ashley Vickers, 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.

I visit my Deaf friends often in Maryland. We love having the option of seeing a movie as an outing activity. Having open captions gives us the same sense of pleasure and freedom as our hearing community. The more options there are, the more we are able to go out and enjoy the city more than staying inside.

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

Sincerely,

Ashley Vickers
amirandas23@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 Gerald Voltmann, 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,

Gerald Voltmann
gdvoltmann@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 Jill Waldbieser, 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.

I am the parent of a Deaf child and know firsthand how accessibility matters.

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

Sincerely,

Jill Waldbieser
jwaldbieser@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 Claudine Wanzer-Fehr, and I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing. 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,

Claudine Wanzer-Fehr
hiclaudine2@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Michele Warren, 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.

We would like to have Open Caption at those movie theaters so we can be entertained watching movies as others too. It is equally accessible for everyone according to section 504 law.

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

Sincerely,

Michele Warren
sunshine_64@comcast.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 Tedd Warshauer, 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.

Equally accessible for Deaf people who want to see a movie at any time.

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

Sincerely,

Tedd Warshauer
tgwarshauershop@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 Adam Waters, and I am Hearing. I live in Harford 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.

Maryland has always been at the forefront of inclusive and progressive policies. Inclusion and equality are essential to the very identity of our state.

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

Sincerely,

Adam Waters
armydude575@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 Arlyce Watson, 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-captioned movies benefit Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in many ways, such as improving language skills and helping them learn English if it is not their first language.

Open captioning does not only help the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; it also benefits young hearing children by helping them learn to read and spell certain words. In addition, foreigners can improve their reading and spelling skills in English. I have noticed that many foreigners, such as Hispanic individuals, may speak English better than they read or write it. Therefore, open captioning can be beneficial for them as well.

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

Sincerely,

Arlyce Watson
vaughtwatson@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 Stephen Weiner, 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 am very frustrated with limited choices or no choices using devices that do not work and have to drive --sometimes 50 miles or go out of state to watch preferred movies with OPEN captions. And it gets worse because as I get older and do not like to drive long distances just to watch. MOREOVER, I have hundreds of dollars of free tickets given to me because captioning devices do not work!!! I do not use the vouchers because---their devices do not work half of the time--why bother. I feel EXCLUDED!

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Weiner
sfweiner@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 Tammy Weiner, 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.

Open captioning never fails us while captioning through devices is often problematic. I never have peace going to theaters that only depend on captioning devices. I am grateful that closed captioning is available on TV and do not understand why we can't enjoy the same access in theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Tammy Weiner
lanierweiner@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 Diane Wellings, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Allegany 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,

Diane Wellings
Crimsonrabbit67@outlook.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 Nancy Westenberger, 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,

Nancy Westenberger
Gally72@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 Michele Westfall 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 a Frederick County resident, I'm fortunate that I have access to two movie theaters which provide open captioned movies on a regular basis. But my children, who live with their father in Baltimore, aren't so fortunate. They do not have access to open captioned movies in their area and using captioning equipment is tough for them and it's worse when there are issues with the equipment. Open captions take care of these issues. Please support this bill, as it's essential.

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

Sincerely,

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

Kate Weston
westonkatee@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 Carrie White, 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,

Carrie White
hearts9987@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 Katherine White, and I am Hearing, a person 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 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.

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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 and ally to the Deaf Community, I feel that having more theater showing with open captions would be beneficial to many moviegoers.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine White
kewwhite598@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 Mary Anne White, 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.

Three generations of Deaf families deserve a full literacy.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Anne White
maryannewhite54@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 Roy White, and I am Deaf/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,

Roy White
rwhite8088@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 Jock Williams, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jock Williams
bodhisjbw@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 Jody Williams, 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.

It is disheartening to my two hearing children that movie theater plans have to be dropped because it's inaccessible to me. We end up going 35 miles out of the way for a captioned movie we want to see at a time that works for us.

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

Sincerely,

Jody Williams
JodyDB@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 Shannon Winston, and I am Hard of Hearing. 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 have to use those clunky closed caption devices when I go to theaters. Not all theaters even have them. Or don't have them fully functional or charged. Open captions would help a lot.

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

Sincerely,

Shannon Winston
slynnewinston@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 Elsie Winters, and I am Deaf. I live in Kent 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 hearing impaired but now I am totally Deaf with a cochlear implant. I depend totally on tv captioning and even hearing members of my family use it. I would be clueless with captioned news, movies, and tv programs. Please provide open captioning accessible for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Elsie Winters
kentco4@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 Maria Witz, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Maria Witz
Maria.witz@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 Susan Wolf, 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.

My mother lost her hearing starting in middle age, and my sister and I have followed in her footsteps. She depended on captions for comprehension when watching films as I do now. Without captions, I cannot understand what people in the film are saying. My sister was in the same position before she passed away. Open captions are WONDERFUL! I can watch and understand without juggling a captioning device or wearing captioning glasses (heavy) over my prescription glasses. If you want to buy popcorn and a soda at the theater, and also have to lug a captioning device, it gets very messy. If you have to watch an entire film with those heavy glasses pressing on your nose, it gets very uncomfortable. Open captions are a lifesaver.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Wolf
quakerwolf@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 Dianna Yamada, 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.

I can not enjoy going to the movies with my husband who can hear. I also can't go during the limited hours offered for captioning movies. Please make OC equitable and accessible.

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

Sincerely,

Dianna Yamada
mygreentea68@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 Viola Woolums, and I am 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.

As a hearing person, I would love to be able to go to the movies with my deaf friends. As it is, our theater experience is not equal, and the currently available captioning devices do not work well enough to allow someone to enjoy a movie like I do at the theater. In a time when people are not going to the movies as much in general, I think it's unfortunate that the inaccessibility of the experience is what's holding our deaf and hard of hearing neighbors back.

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

Sincerely,

Viola Woolums
mrkitty1988@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 Damon Wright, and I am Hearing, a person 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 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.

Captions help give me clarity during a film, and allow me to enjoy a movie with friends and family out in public so I don't have to wait for a movie to go to home streaming to comprehend it.

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

Sincerely,

Damon Wright
dbradway28@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 Marcia Zisman, 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.

I love going to the movies! Due to the lack of or limited availability of open captions, I am severely limited in opportunities to watch movies in theaters. Without this accessibility, I have to wait until new movies are released on live-streaming channels such as Netflix. It would be wonderful to have the same opportunity as my hearing peers to watch movies when and how I want to.

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

Sincerely,

Marcia Zisman
mzisman270@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 Sage Zoz, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sage Zoz
sagezoz@proton.me