

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 Jose Castillo, 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,

Jose Castillo  
jactwin28@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 Mikaela Castillo, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Mikaela Castillo  
josecasstillo@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 Shaji Chacko, and I am Deaf, a person learning English as a second language. 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 need movies in the theater to be captioned because my English needs to be improving.

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

Sincerely,

Shaji Chacko  
scdeaf@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 Carolann Chambers, and I am Hearing and a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Carolann Chambers  
carolannchambers23@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 Jessica Chavis, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Chavis  
jesschavis@ymail.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 Jina Choi, 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.

A Deaf Maryland resident and parent, I strongly support the Open Captioning Movies Bill. I rely on captions to fully understand movies, yet closed-captioning devices are often unreliable, unavailable, or uncomfortable, forcing me to miss out on an experience hearing audiences enjoy freely. This is especially painful when attending movies with my son, as I want to share those moments and conversations with him without barriers. Open captioning provides equal access, independence, and dignity for Deaf and hard of hearing people while also benefiting many others, and I respectfully urge you to pass this bill so all Marylanders can enjoy movies equally.

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

Sincerely,

Jina Choi  
choi79jinah@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 Dana Christianson, 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.

I am deeply saddened to think that there are so many in our community who don't have access to the simple pleasure of going to the movies. This legislation would not take away from my experience and would mean more access for others. Maryland should follow through on its promise of inclusion and pass the Open Caption Movie bill. Thank you for your leadership.

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

Sincerely,

Dana Christianson  
dana.christianson@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 Bradley Christlieb, 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.

I love supporting local businesses in Prince Frederick, but the current lack of open captioning screenings makes it difficult to plan outings with my diverse group of friends. When a theater provides open captions, they aren't just showing a movie; they are signaling that everyone is welcome. By requiring more open-captioned showtimes, Maryland can lead the way in making sure that a night at the movies is an accessible tradition for all citizens, regardless of their hearing status.

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

Sincerely,

Bradley Christlieb  
bradleychristlieb@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 Kalila Clay, 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.

My mother is deaf and if closed captioned movies are offered more she wouldn't have to wait until a movie is available on television.

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

Sincerely,

Kalila Clay  
kalilaclay4@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 Ann Cole, 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,

Ann Cole  
anncole47@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 Steven Cole, 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 caption is better than closed caption because it requires wearing glasses which can cause headaches.

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

Sincerely,

Steven Cole  
smcole52@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 Deborah Colon-Martin, 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,

Deborah Colon-Martin  
dec417@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 Theo Conley, 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,

Theo Conley  
killatevo@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 Ann Conroy, 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,

Ann Conroy  
aconro@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 Sarah Conry, 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.

For most people, going to the movies is easy—you buy a ticket and get lost in the story. For me, it's different. Without open captions, watching a film feels like trying to follow a conversation through a wall. I catch bits of dialogue but spend the movie guessing and worrying I've missed something important instead of enjoying it.

With open captions, everything changes. I can fully understand the dialogue, humor, and emotion, and I'm free to simply enjoy the film. Open captions don't just make movies accessible—they give me the dignity of equal participation in a shared experience.

What surprised me most is how much they've helped my husband, too. Though he isn't deaf or hard of hearing, captions clarify dialogue in quiet, fast, or music-heavy scenes. His experience is better as well, showing that accessibility benefits everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Conry  
sarahjconry@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 Sheryl Cooper, and I am 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.

My husband is hard of hearing and cannot follow a movie in a theater. We'd love to enjoy movies in theaters together! Now, we mostly stay home because we can get captions at home.

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

Sincerely,

Sheryl Cooper  
fingerworks1@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 Melissa Cordero, 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,

Melissa Cordero  
mjmjhcordero@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 Kim Craig, 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,

Kim Craig  
kimmariee@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 John Crook, 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.

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

Sincerely,

John Crook  
jmitchellcrook@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 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 Kris daCosta-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.

Movies in theaters that are open captions projected ON the screen gives me FULL access to enjoy the movie at the same level as with the audience. I'd enjoy not having to deal with individual hand-held captioning devices.

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

Sincerely,

Kris daCosta-Warshauer  
KdacW35@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 Rachel Dailey 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,

Rachel Dailey  
rachel.dailey@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 Dauphin, 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,

Amy Dauphin  
amydauphin@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 Gabrielle Davis, 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 makes sense to have access when I go to any movie theatres in the State of Maryland!

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

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Davis  
GDavis3115@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 Jerome Davis, 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 is Deaf and I want to take her to any accessible movie theater in the State of Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Jerome Davis  
GDDavis14@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 Tamera Deem, and I am Hard of 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,

Tamera Deem  
tamera.deem@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 Demarest, 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.

It is important to me that people with all abilities have access to enjoy movies. Why should someone who cannot hear, or has other problems processing from auditory input alone, be limited in their enjoyment, when there is such a simple solution?

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Demarest  
sdemarest@greenamerica.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 Chris DeSomma, 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,

Chris DeSomma  
chrisgt67@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 Meredith DeSomma and I am Deaf. 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,

Meredith DeSomma  
mdutchy81@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 Emily Dittmer, 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.

Open captioning in movie theaters is another perfect example of how accessibility improves the experience for everyone. Not only would this bill make an incredible impact on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing folks in Maryland, but I know personally how much this will affect families with elders who may have not yet come to terms with their hearing loss but still very much want to enjoy time at the movies with the people they love.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Dittmer  
dittmerinterpreting@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 Rosemary Dockter, 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,

Rosemary Dockter  
redockter@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 Sarah Burton Doleac, 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,

Sarah Burton Doleac  
sarah.doleac@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 Katrina Drake, and I am Hard of Hearing, 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.

My husband and I seek movie theaters that allow captioning not only to support the Deaf Community, but also because I need captioning to enjoy my experience. I love to be able to watch a movie without needing to ask what's happening.

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

Sincerely,

Katrina Drake  
kathryn.faye007@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 Kassandra Drammeh, 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.

Growing up in my house, captions were a standard. On every TV show, movie, etc. it was always something we used - to ensure that my mom was included in family nights the same as everyone else. My mom is hard of hearing with her hearing fading with time. She has been through many experiences going out to see a movie with the old school head phones for louder sound (not very helpful when the issue is quite literally not that she needs you to yell at her) OR the closed caption mirror which only worked a handful of times IF the captions were good, and IF the theater had it as an option. This meant, we didn't often go OUT to watch movies with my mom, and had to wait till things came out on DVD or streaming (in current days). Nowadays it is a little better but still needs the improvements listed here in this bill - so when we decide to watch a new movie, it's accessible to ALL, and there doesn't have to be a choice to watch the movie in four months or hope she "gets the gist" from lip reading. We all deserve access to art and cinema and truly, open captions are LONG overdue!.

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

Sincerely,

Kassandra Drammeh  
kassandra.drammeh@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 Tanya Duckett-Brennan, 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.

Maryland is such an exceptional state, a shining star for the country, in so many areas. Open Captioning Movies is an area, however, where we can do better. Maryland needs to do better for its hearing impaired and neurodivergent residents.

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

Sincerely,

Tanya Duckett-Brennan  
tdbrennan04@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 Astrid Ecker, and I am 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.

I use closed captions in my own time to help me focus on what's occurring, but more importantly, everyone should be able to go see a movie regardless of whether or not they can hear.

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

Sincerely,

Astrid Ecker  
donutmtb@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 Carina Edington, 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,

Carina Edington  
carina.g.edington@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 John Edington, 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,

John Edington  
john.d.edington@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 Tindra Edington, 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,

Tindra Edington  
tindra.edington@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 Mark Ehrlichmann, 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,

Mark Ehrlichmann  
2servegod@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 JoAnn Elliott, and I am Hard of Hearing and 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,

JoAnn Elliott  
elliott.tilden@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 Corinne Emanuel, 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 am an Interpreter Training Prep (ITP) student at the Community College of Baltimore County and training to be an interpreter to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HOH). I believe it is time to provide Open Caption Movies to the Deaf and HOH group so they may enjoy this source of entertainment access like the rest of the American hearing population.

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

Sincerely,

Corinne Emanuel  
coremanuel@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 Diane Emmanuel, 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.

Please continue to support captioning films in the theaters. I enjoy good movies too!

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

Sincerely,

Diane Emmanuel  
diane.emman@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 Akilah English, 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 express my strong support for SB 259, which would require movie theaters in Maryland with four or more screens to regularly offer open captioned movies.

Open captions are essential for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, including those who do not use assistive devices, as well as for seniors, multilingual viewers, children learning to read, and many others. These bills promote accessibility, equity, and full participation in public life without placing an undue burden on theaters.

Ensuring consistent access to open captioned movies allows Maryland residents to enjoy films with dignity and without barriers.

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

Sincerely,

Akilah English  
aenglish7@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 Jared Evans, 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 enjoy going to the movies but am often frustrated by the limited screening times and dates. This bill will help make movies more accessible.

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

Sincerely,

Jared Evans  
jnevans@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 Toyin Fasakin, 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,

Toyin Fasakin  
Toyinseu@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 Shane Feldman, 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,

Shane Feldman  
shanefeldman@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 Fernandes, 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 support the second Open Captioning bill because it finally includes small movie theaters with fewer than eight screens, especially in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, where deaf people are often left without any access. The first bill was an important step, but this one ensures equal access statewide, requires theaters to comply with the law, allows fines when they do not, and creates an office where complaints can be filed. Accessibility should not depend on where you live or how big a theater is.

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

Sincerely,

Roy Fernandes  
royfern@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 Sherry Fernandes, 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 support the second Open Captioning bill because it finally includes small movie theaters with fewer than eight screens, especially in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, where deaf people are often left without any access. The first bill was an important step, but this one ensures equal access statewide, requires theaters to comply with the law, allows fines when they do not, and creates an office where complaints can be filed. Accessibility should not depend on where you live or how big a theater is.

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

Sincerely,

Sherry Fernandes  
sherryaryafern@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 Fleming, and I am Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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 have bilateral AMD, CPEO (mitochondrial myopathy) and lack of depth perception as well as difficulty hearing (neurosensory hearing loss, hyperacusis, etc and mobility problems.

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

Sincerely,

Diane Fleming  
dofleming1@gmail.com