

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Kathleen MacMillan, 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.

Open captions support access for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen MacMillan  
kathymacmillan@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 Carolina Malasheskie, 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,

Carolina Malasheskie  
cjhunter3@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 Ellen Mansfield, 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.

I come from a Deaf family, and like any other family, we love going to the cinema to enjoy the latest films together. However, our experiences are often limited by a lack of accessible options.

Currently, our choices are extremely restricted. Open-captioned screenings are often scheduled at inconvenient times—either very early in the morning or very late at night. As a family, we cannot always work our lives around these limited windows. We deserve the same fairness and flexibility as any other moviegoer.

Furthermore, we often find that the few open-captioned dates available disappear from the schedule too quickly. By the time our family is available to go out together, the accessible screenings are often gone.

Providing more frequent open-captioned screenings at diverse times would allow my family to participate in our community and enjoy entertainment without barriers. Access to the arts should not be a struggle; it should be an equal opportunity for everyone.

Thank you for your time and for considering the impact this bill will have on families like mine across Maryland and your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of HB 435.

Sincerely,

Ellen Mansfield  
ellenmansfield1@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 Reem Mansour, and I am 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.

I support the second Open Captioning bill because it makes movies more accessible for everyone, not just deaf people. I have enjoyed watching open-captioned films with my deaf uncle and aunt in Frederick, and I love that this bill will bring the same access to small theaters in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. It will be great for tourists at ski resorts and beach areas, and it also helps my friends who are learning English because captions make it easier to understand and improve language skills. Open captions make movies more inclusive and welcoming for all.

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

Sincerely,

Reem Mansour  
reemmansour021@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 Allen Markel, 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,

Allen Markel  
a4markel@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 Sea Markel, 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,

Sean Markel  
seanmarkek8@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 Tabitha Markel, 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.

I always enjoy watching movies, but not at the movie theater when I have to use a special device to try my best to read the captions. I want a full access where I'm able to sit back and enjoy watching the movies with captions on the movie itself, not on some kind of device.

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

Sincerely,

Tabitha Markel  
luxboucle@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 Morgan Marshall, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

The Open Caption bill will provide access to not only me, but thousands of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Marylanders. Please consider the accessibility of those who have hearing loss.

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

Sincerely,

Morgan Marshall  
morganmarshall64@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 Rebecca Martin, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

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

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

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

This November I got to see Wake Up Dead Man with captions. I use captions at home, and a friend that I saw the movie with uses hearing aids. Having the captions made the movie more enjoyable for all of us because we didn't miss any dialog.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Martin  
jrmartin99@aim.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 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 Carla Masi 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,

Carla Masi  
carlaemasi@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 Wesley Mauder 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.

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

Sincerely,

Wesley Mauder  
wmauder1@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 Connor McAlister, 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.

Open captions on movies allows me to fully enjoy a movie with my friends! I personally have good hearing, but I struggle to understand a lot of dialogue in movies. Having captions makes it so I actually get to enjoy the full experience of the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Connor McAlister  
conmcal00@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 Bridget McCarthy, 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.

Growing up going to the movies was a big task - my sis would have to bring a notebook to write down what was being said during the movie so it was hard to read in the dark theater. This was in the 1980's. Fast forward to 2026, this is a game changer - no worries about reading the notes and just sit down to watch the captions. Please continue to provide open captions at theaters!

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

Sincerely,

Bridget McCarthy  
bridgetpbs1985@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 Jordan McClintock, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Jordan McClintock  
curliecutie4649@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Elizabeth McGlone, 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,

Elizabeth McGlone  
elizabethgiraldi@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 Scott McIndoe, 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.

I used to live in Maryland, and hardly ever go to movies because closed captioning devices are uncomfortable and keep missing the detail of the movie. If there are open captioning movies available in Maryland, I would love to go especially to beautiful big screens.

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

Sincerely,

Scott McIndoe  
rsmcindoe@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Lisa McKillop and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Howard County.

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

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

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

I'm just now losing my hearing and trying to learn ASL. I am elderly and I am slow. Closed captioning is a life saver on Netflix! I would go to the movies more often if they had OC.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa McKillop  
Lisamamck@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 Kevin McLeod, 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.

The deaf community has tried the technical solutions for captioned movies and found they really detract from the theater experience. Open captions come closest to replicating a hearing viewer's experience, and provides a lot of value for hard of hearing seniors too. If open captioned films were marketed as a benefit for seniors, it might even bring in more business. This can be a win-win solution for all.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin McLeod  
deafscribe@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 Alexander McLin, 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.

Frequently I am not able to go to the movies because of a lack of captions. This has made me feel left out of family and friend functions because I'm not able to enjoy watching movies alongside them.

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

Sincerely,

Alexander McLin  
alex.mclin@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 Robin McNulty, 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,

Robin McNulty  
robin.mculty@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 Cindy Meadows, 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,

Cindy Meadows  
annajoeymom@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 Lee Meadows, 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,

Lee Meadows  
moeyturk1729@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 Bambi Mejorado, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

We support the Deaf community. We have an adult daughter who was born deaf and benefits from open captioning. We have also seen that the open caption benefits and enhances literacy in other groups.

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

Sincerely,

Bambi Mejorado  
rbm.2020@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 Charmaine Mendonsa, 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 Captioning is essential for ensuring equal and complete access for deaf individuals. It allows me to fully engage with and appreciate the narrative of the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Charmaine Mendonsa  
ccmendonsa@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 Nancy Meyers, and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico 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.

Equality for all.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Meyers  
nannie812@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 Andrea Miller, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Garrett County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Andrea Miller  
ad.miller.1989@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 Robert Miller, 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,

Robert Miller  
rjmillerks@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 Jennifer Millios, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

My brother, niece and nephew are Deaf. This bill to provide open captioning in more movies would have a high impact in that it helps to remove barriers from yet another avenue of family entertainment and bonding that the hearing world takes for granted - the joy of going to the movies!

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Millios  
milliosj@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 William Millios, and I am Deaf. I live in Talbot 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.

Open captioning has allowed me to attend the movies with my family members!

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

Sincerely,

William Millios  
william.millios@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 Molly Mirchandani, 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,

Molly Mirchandani  
mollypfeifer55@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 Kitty Monahan-Sewell, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kitty Monahan-Sewell  
itsjustmskitty@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Montalvo-Diaz, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County..

I am writing to request your support for **SB 259 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning**, sponsored by Senator Carl Jackson. 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. I do not want to be stuck with one option with one movie that I do not want to watch. I want to be able to go anytime and any day to watch an open captioned movie. I am tired of using the closed captioned devices and often it would not work. When it didn't work, I had to go back to the front office to have it fixed and I will miss some of the movie when it started. That's not fair to me.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support of SB 259.

Sincerely,

Lisa Montalvo-Diaz  
montalvom@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 Carol J. Moore, 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 rarely go to see movies since there is no list of movies near where I live. Someone told me that I can call there to set up open captions for me after I buy a ticket. I did not know about that. I will try that next time later in spring. I pray that it will be passed to expand 4 screens or more in Maryland..

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

Sincerely,

Carol J. Moore  
carolmoore7@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 Dawn Moore, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Moore  
DawnSchriver@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 Savannah Moore, 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,

Savannah Moore  
savannah.moore22@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 Stephen J. Moore, 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.

Once the law is passed, I will be interested in attending the movie theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Moore  
sjmoore7@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 Norma Moran, 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,

Norma Moran  
viva2nym@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 Mayur Motiwale, and I am Deaf, a person learning English as a second language. 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 need captions to understand movies and news. Without open captions, I cannot follow the story, dialogue, or important information, which makes movie theaters inaccessible to me.

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

Sincerely,

Mayur Motiwale  
mayurmotiwale81@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 Randy Murbach, 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.

As someone who has been deaf since birth, I'm tired of being treated as a subset of society because of my disability. It's time for a truly level playing field—especially when it comes to enjoying movies.

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

Sincerely,

Randy Murbach  
rmurbach@icloud.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Richard Newton Treadway, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

This will make my movie going experience better.

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

Sincerely,

Richard Newton Treadway  
bmorerik@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 Gladys Noguera, 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.

I'm a mother and I enjoy watching movies with my family feeling normal without using bulky devices and stress-free. It's important to have access to open captions.

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

Sincerely,

Gladys Noguera  
gladys20901@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 Erik Nordlof, 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.

While I do not live in Maryland, I live nearby and have many deaf and hard of hearing friends in the state. The deaf community has long been frustrated with closed captioning devices and completely prefer open captioned screenings over the devices. We rarely go to the movie theaters unless OC is available. Even if we really want to see something and risk trying the CC devices, these devices fail us.

For example, last year my Maryland friend and I went to Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD to see a movie, and we observed the staff to go through 3/4th of the 12 DOJ-required devices before getting two that worked. The failure of the theater to have all devices in a ready state is illegal in violating the DOJ's accessibility requirements and deaf and hard of hearing moviegoers' rights to go to the movies. In this case, we were fortunate our group was not bigger. This lack of readiness is commonplace and unfortunately not the end of the story.

When both of us tried to watch the movie with CC devices, neither of our devices could mount well to our armrests. It was obvious the devices had not been designed or tested for durability. During the movie, a few times the dialogue was not displayed, causing us to miss out on what was going on and scrambling mentally to figure out what could have been said. If audio dropped out for hearing moviegoers like this, that would be unacceptable for business. When this happens to deaf moviegoers, it's shrugged off.

All these issues with CC devices are extremely commonplace for the deaf community, and we simply do not have full access to the movies with this. Open captions are built in with the movies, so no device and all their failure points in design, hardware, software, and signal is needed for us to watch the movie. Open captions need to be part of the moviegoing experience, and I encourage Maryland legislators to recognize this and ensure that we are included.

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

Sincerely,

Erik Nordlof  
enordlof@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 Stacy Nowak, 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,

Stacy Nowak  
thenowak@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 Nowowiejski, and I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

I am a Maryland resident who is hard of hearing and relies on captioning in many settings. While assistive listening devices exist in theaters, they are inconsistent and don't provide the same experience as being able to follow dialogue naturally on screen. Open captioned showings allow me — and many others — to fully participate in something as basic and social as going to the movies without extra equipment or accommodation hurdles.

Captioning benefits more than just the deaf and hard-of-hearing community — it also supports people with auditory processing challenges, non-native English speakers, and anyone in difficult listening environments. Requiring theaters with multiple screens to offer a limited number of open-captioned showings per week is a reasonable, practical accessibility measure that improves inclusion without placing undue burden on theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Nowowiejski  
graphicmarkus@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 James K. Odom, 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.

It's important that movie theatres be open-captioned because the Deaf need access to the big screens without having to carry around the other captioning devices where staff forget to recharge beforehand. And since I'm not a Maryland resident, it's still important because I'm a frequent tourist and it would benefit not only me who visits, but also that of my friends and family who are Maryland residents. It's my hope that Maryland will lead the way in making this a national law.

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

Sincerely,

James K. Odom  
thekevinodom@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 Yakima Ogunloye, and I am Deaf, a person learning English as a second language. 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,

Yakima Ogunloye  
queennubian1@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 Gina Oliva, 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,

Gina Oliva  
gina.oliva09@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 Pat Outland, 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.

Open captioned has changed my life— I can understand the action and the character and stories. A far more coherent way for us to understand plot, players and motivations. At 79 years old I can no longer drive but still love the experience and excitement of going to the movies— the smell of popcorn is swoon- worthy. Please make these movies more accessible to us and the seniors — my hearing aids are inadequate.

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

Sincerely,

Pat Outland  
patoutland2@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 Rita Owens, 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.

It would be nice if more theaters could offer more options of captioned movies, especially on weekends or week nights. I only could see their captioned movies during daytime or weekdays but most of us prefer weekends or evenings.

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

Sincerely,

Rita Owens  
nkowens@gmail.com