

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 Shelby Abdilah, 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.

Open captions allow my friends and I to attend movies together at convenient times for everyone. This equality should be expanded to smaller theaters as well.

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

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah
shelby.abdilah@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 Leah Adekunle-Raji, 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,

Leah Adekunle-Raji
leah.raji@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 Jasmine Akhtar, 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,

Jasmine Akhtar
jasmineak16@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 Tiasha Akinsete, 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,

Tiasha Akinsete
deafrulers@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 Nkiruka Akunwafor, 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.

As a lifelong MD Resident, thank you for considering this open captioning bill. Growing up, I did not go to the movies because I couldn't understand what was being said. When they added Rear Window Captioning, that was a hit or miss because sometimes it would not be charged or etc. That was often frustrating to be excited about certain movies then come to the theatre to find it not working which happened frequently. When the RWC did work, it was annoying because I had to stay in one spot and could not really move as I will need to adjust the RWC too. They also had captioning glasses I tried in Ohio and that was eh. Open caption movies are way better because it is inclusive and everyone can just watch the movie together. With more options of open captioned movies, I find myself going to the movies often and really enjoy the experience that I missed out on in my childhood.

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

Sincerely,

Nkiruka Akunwafor
msnkikia@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 Kafayat Alabi, 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,

Kafayat Alabi
princess_akat@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 Ali Mansour, and I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind/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 am writing as a Brother in law of a couple who are hearing-impaired individuals to express my strong support for the Open Captioning Movies Bill and to share why this legislation would make a real difference in their lives.

Going to the movies is something many people take for granted. For them, it has often been an experience filled with frustration, anxiety, and exclusion. Without open captions, they frequently miss key dialogue, plot points, jokes, and emotional moments. Instead of relaxing and enjoying the film, they find themselves struggling to keep up, guessing what was said, and feeling embarrassed when others laugh at moments they didn't understand. Over time, this has led them to avoid movie theaters altogether, even though they love movies.

There have been times when friends or family invited them to go to the theater with them, and they had to decline because there were no captioned showings available that fit their schedules. It's painful to feel left out of such a common social activity simply because accessibility was not considered. They don't want special treatment, they just want the same opportunity as everyone else to enjoy a movie without barriers.

Open captions would change that. They would allow them to fully participate, to laugh along with everyone else, to follow the story with confidence, and to feel included rather than isolated. This bill is not just about convenience; it's about dignity, access, and equity for thousands of

Maryland residents who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as many others who benefit from captions.

I respectfully urge you to support the Open Captioning Movies Bill. Your vote can help ensure that movie theaters across Maryland become 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,

Ali Mansour
Mansour_ali@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 Aboud Alkathiri, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

When I lived in the United Arab Emirates, I was in middle school. The first time ever movie theaters I attended regularly offered Arabic subtitles for Indian films, and I immediately fell in love with the experience.

Later, I moved to the United States for college. I quickly realized that my movie theater experiences here were very different from those in the UAE, especially because I had limited proficiency in Arabic at the time.

The first time I went to a movie theater in the U.S. with friends, I struggled to use the captioning device—it was not working properly. The theater staff did not apologize and instead offered me free tickets. I felt puzzled and frustrated, because I had paid to watch the movie, not to receive free tickets in place of access.

Later, while attending Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, I watched a movie in a theater that provided open English subtitles. I felt truly satisfied and included. That experience showed me how meaningful and impactful proper accessibility can be. I wish that all movies in all theaters offered captions, so that everyone, no matter their hearing ability or language proficiency, could fully enjoy and access the movie experience.

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

Sincerely,

About Alkathiri

aboutkathiri@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 Frank Allnutt, and I am Deaf. I am not a Maryland resident.

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

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

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

I live on the very border of WV and MD, and frequent movies in Maryland at least once a month. Having access to open captioned movies has made my movie going experience more enjoyable than having to use a captioning device or glasses. I am in complete support of this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

Frank Allnutt
fsallnutt@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 Larisa Aran, 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,

Larisa Aran
larusa.aran@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 Larisa Aranbayeva, and I am Deaf and a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Larisa Aranbayeva
larisa.aran@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 Laura Aristizabal, 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,

Laura Aristizabal
lauragiraldoari@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 Aulhouse, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Washington County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

John Aulhouse
aulhouse@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 Aulhouse, 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 am a mom of a Deaf son, and we only go to movies when the WHOLE family can be included, which includes my Deaf son. We do not want him to be humiliated by forcing him to use awkward, heavy glasses that often don't work to see captions. He should be able to have the SAME level of enjoyment for movies as everyone else by having open captions. In addition, my husband who has slight hearing loss benefits as well. Open captions are an inexpensive, easy way to benefit the entire community. Please pass this bill!

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Aulhouse
melissaaulhouse@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 Larissa Baer, 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.

Going to the movies with my deaf family members is one of my favorite ways to spend time together. When a theater has open captions, it means we can all just watch the movie without extra effort or workarounds. No one has to explain what was said or miss a joke. We're laughing, reacting, and enjoying the story at the same time. Open captions make movie nights feel normal and shared, which is what makes them special.

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

Sincerely,

Larissa Baer
larissacbaer@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 Donna Ballmer, 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,

Donna Ballmer
Dlballmer@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 Ballmer, 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,

James Ballmer
Jkballmer@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 Nat Balsley, 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.

For the past seven years I have worked with movie theaters in the Frederick, Hagerstown, and Baltimore areas to promote and expand open-captioned screenings for the open-caption-going community. Demand for open captions has continued to grow—not only within the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, but also among many others who prefer captions while watching films.

We are fortunate to partner with the outstanding team at Warehouse Cinemas, who actively collaborate with us to provide multiple open-captioned showings each day, week after week. However, many deaf individuals in other parts of Maryland are missing out because of the language in the current law. They deserve the same level of accessibility enjoyed in Frederick, Hagerstown, and Baltimore—across the entire state.

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

Sincerely,

Nat Balsley
natbalsley@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 Joi Bannister, 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.

Throughout my work, I've seen how something as simple as going to the movies can require extra planning, long travel, or settling for limited and inconsistent options, if captions are available at all. What should be shared, spontaneous experience often becomes frustrating or exclusionary. Requiring theaters with four or more screens to offer open captioned movies is a practical, reasonable step toward equity. Open captions benefit many audiences and rely on technology that most theaters already have. This bill ensures access is consistent rather than optional. Access should not depend on voluntary decisions. The statewide standard provides dignity and inclusion for patrons who rely on captions. I strongly support HB 435 and SB 259 and urge you to move these bills forward. Thank you for your commitment to a more accessible Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Joi Bannister
joi@joyfulsigning.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 Alex Bardsley, 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.

This is in support of my deaf neighbors and friends. I live in DC three blocks from MD, and go to the movies in Silver Spring more often than DC.

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

Sincerely,

Alex Bardsley
vinvrai@duck.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 Sonia Barlongo, 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.

In order to have equal access for deaf, we need to have an open captioning of movies everywhere and to be available for each movie DAILY at all times slots! Hearing people have full access to movies with audios daily! Why can't deaf people have the exact same access to open captioning daily?! Therefore we have the rights to have the equal access to open captioning as the hearing's to audio, period.

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

Sincerely,

Sonia Barlongo
sonia.barlongo@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 Brian Barron, 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,

Brian Barron
bjbarron13@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 Elizabeth Barron, 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.

While my hearing is still intact, my husband struggles to hear even with a cochlear implant and a hearing aid. Open Captioning really helps. It would be nice to be able to go to a movie together.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Barron
ebarrontuowl@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 Christi Batamula, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

Our family loves when the AMC in Annapolis runs open caption movies! We love to have full access to the movie and not have to depend on the small caption devices that, more often than I can count, have malfunctioned making us miss the movie- or had employees who do know how to connect them. Help other people who need four screens or more for them to have access.

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

Sincerely,

Christi Batamula
cbatamula@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Susan Beaver, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Beaver
susanbeaver155@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 Suzi Behun 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,

Suzi Behun
suzi@behun.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 Brooke Bennett, and I am Hearing. I am not a Maryland resident.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Brooke Bennett
bnbennett1998@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 Holly Bentz, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Holly Bentz
chinadol1009@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 David Bernard, 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,

David Bernard
david32bern@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 Angelika Berry, 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.

The reason is because my son is deaf, too. I also want him to enjoy it with his deaf friends and myself.

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

Sincerely,

Angelika Berry
a.l.berry05@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 Biesel, and I am Deaf. I live in Howards 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,

James Biesel
jamesbiesel@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 Blair, 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,

Cindy Blair
cblair894@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 Cheyenne Blakeley, and I am Hearing. I live in Cecil 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,

Cheyenne Blakeley
cskyblake@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 Taylor Blakeley, and I am Hearing. I live in Cecil County.

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

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

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

It is absolutely imperative that all movies include closed captions. My partner, who is hard of hearing, cannot enjoy a movie with me when we go out. He does not get to share in that experience so many take for granted. Those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or who struggle whatsoever with hearing or understanding without visual aid are being robbed of what everyone else gets to enjoy. It is such an easy thing to include, therefore including everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Taylor Blakeley
sondersigns@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 Jillian Bleggi, 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,

Jillian Bleggi
jillian.bleggi@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 Theresa Blume, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Allegany County.

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

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

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

I have several relatives and friends who have difficulty hearing and captions would be a fantastic way for them to enjoy entertainment, news, etc.. with family and friends. Also, I don't wear hearing aids (yet anyhow), but I always have captions on when I can as I don't seem to hear as well as I should and it truly helps me to understand what I am watching when captions are available.

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

Sincerely,

Theresa Blume
blume_theresa@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 Elizabeth Bolin, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bolin
lizbolin@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 Noah Bradford, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

We must make changes to ensure access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community!

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

Sincerely,

Noah Bradford
noah.bradford@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 Laura Brahle, 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.

Anytime there is an open-captioned movie of interest to me, I always go to AMC 17 Theatre in Owings Mills, MD. as it is very close to my home. Unfortunately I am limited to whatever day and time is offered by this particular theater. They offer only 1 show date & time for a movie , thus potentially limiting people who work, have families with children, and reduce opportunities for entertainment. I hope to see this change to more availability and access for Deaf people.

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

Sincerely,

Laura Brahle
LBrahle5519@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 Vanishe Buchanan, 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,

Vanishe Buchanan
Vanishe.Buchanan@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 Lindsay Buchko, 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,

Lindsay Buchko
lindzay@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 Theresa Buckle, and I am Deaf. I live in Caroline 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,

Theresa Buckle
tbdo015@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 Kerry Burger, 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,

Kelly Burger
kerry.fburger@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Dave Burghardt, 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 sister is deaf and a Maryland resident. I have witnessed her frustration when attending movies with insufficient accommodations.

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

Sincerely,

Dave Burghardt
daveburghardt1@mac.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 Heidi Burghardt, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

I am writing as a constituent to urge your support for requiring open captions in all movie theaters. This issue affects not only members of the Deaf community but also millions of Americans with hearing loss, a number that increases with age. Accessible movies allow everyone to enjoy films with family and friends, without exclusion.

Open captions also make economic sense. Theaters that provide captions attract audiences who would otherwise be unable to attend, increasing ticket sales and customer loyalty. By supporting open captions, you are not only promoting inclusion but also supporting local businesses and the broader economy.

I ask you to take action by co-sponsoring or supporting legislation that ensures open captions are available in all movie theaters. Please consider the impact on your constituents—your own loved ones may one day rely on captions to enjoy a movie experience. Removing attitudinal barriers and making movies accessible is the right thing to do.

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

Sincerely,
Heidi Burghardt
haburghardt@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 Burris, and I am DeafBlind. 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.

Having access to hearing aids at live shows in theaters, and open captions in movies makes the experience more accessible for everyone, not just Hard of Hearing or Deaf individuals. I encourage you to continue to make our world more accessible for everyone. We will not all be so lucky to remain completely able bodied for our entire lives.

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

Sincerely,

Savannah Burris
sav.burris@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 Burton, 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,

Rachel Burton
rach@suchalovelyred.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 Greg Burkholder, and I am Deaf. I am not a Maryland resident.

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

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

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

I am next door to Maryland, living in Havre De Grace, PA, and have several deaf friends there. Access is incredibly important to our community and as we've seen with the large numbers of hearing people who use captions now, accessibility for one group leads to others experiencing greater options as well. I hope you'll pass this bill not just for us but for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Burkholder
everything.is.so.shiny@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 Burvant, 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 captions are essential for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to have the same access to movies that hearing audiences do. Too often, we arrive excited to see a film only to miss it entirely because the assistive captioning equipment is broken, unavailable, or malfunctioning. This is not a rare inconvenience — it's a repeated barrier that prevents equal participation. Open captioning removes these obstacles by ensuring captions are visible to everyone, every time, without relying on fragile or inconsistent technology. Open captions aren't an extra feature; they are an access necessity that allows us to fully experience and enjoy movies alongside hearing audiences.

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

Sincerely,

Stacy Burvant
sburvant@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 Leslie Caldwell, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

I would like to go to the movies and enjoy the show the same as my hearing counterparts. How will that happen? With open captioning on the screens!!! Please pass this bill. Provide access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We deserve to be included as well.

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

Sincerely,

Leslie Caldwell
lrcaldwell29@gmail.com