

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 Ford, 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.

This bill is important to me because I have Deaf and Hard of Hearing family and friends that need access to the movies. Every time I go to the movies with friends that need the captions, the arm/cup-holder captioner dies, they miss part of the movie to get a new one, and they have to look down to see the captions. It is much more seamless and accessible to have open captions. I also benefit from captions. When I am fatigued they help me stay in the story and focus. Please support this bill to make the movies a place of connection for all MD residents.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Ford
rachelford120@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 Charlotte Fritts, 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,

Charlotte Fritts
cfritts@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 Maribel Gárael 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.

I am a hearing person who has Deaf family members who will benefit from this program providing them equal access to this service.

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

Sincerely,

Maribel Gárate
mgaratephd@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 Raymond Garrett, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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 have difficulty enjoying the movie theater without open captions, and my Deaf partner who lives in Maryland can not enjoy the movie theater at all. If there were open captions we could enjoy the movies together and with our Deaf friends!

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

Sincerely,

Raymond Garrett
ray.w.becker94@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 Bernadette Gaskin, 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,

Bernadette Gaskin
bernadettegaskin@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 Peter Gattle, 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.

I just struggle to follow any visual media I consume without the help of captions. I find myself having to rewatch things to fully get what's happening/character motives and others.

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

Sincerely,

Peter Gattle
gattle.peter@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Amy Gellatly, 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.

I think it's a wonderful idea to make sure movie theaters are offering sufficient open captioning screenings to meet people's needs. My mom is also hearing, but as she gets older, she has a harder time following fast dialogue in accents that are unfamiliar to her. I think this option would benefit her greatly.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Gellatly
amygellatly@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 Joanna Gerhardt, 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.

Having open captions at the movies allows me to have the same access as any other hearing person who attends movies for entertainment.

Having access to open captions will allow me to go to the movies with my husband and family without feeling isolated or left out from enjoying the movie.

Having no access to captions/information at movies makes me not want to support local theaters.

Having open captions at all movie theaters will provide equal access to late deafened/ senior citizens that may have a hard time hearing the audio.

Open captions provide ACCESS!

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

Sincerely,

Joanna Gerhardt
joanna.gerhardt77@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 Marla Gibson 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.

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

Sincerely,

Marla Gibson
jmsk@verizon.net

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Bianca Giosa, 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.

Accommodations that benefit and improve accessibility for the disabled benefit every member of our society.

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

Sincerely,

Bianca Giosa
bianca.giosa@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 Delois Gist, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Delois Gist
dbgist@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 H. Mitchell Goldberg, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

I preferred using open caption rather than the device closer to my face so I can enjoy the whole movie with captions.

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

Sincerely,

H. Mitchell Goldberg
hmitchg@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Emily Golden, and I am Hearing. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

As someone who works with various neurodivergent groups and deaf individuals, having access to open captioning that this bill proposes would be a huge opportunity and great way for communities to become more accessible and inclusive.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Golden
emi.golden18@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 Yulia Goldfarb and I am Hard of Hearing, a person with auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition and 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,

Yulia Goldfarb
tangolife2020@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 Shelby Graves and I am a person with 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.

I am neurodivergent and rely on captioning to assist with my comprehension of dialogue during routine meetings and while watching films/television. My husband is an army veteran who is hard of hearing as a result in his military deployment to Afghanistan. We would both greatly benefit from - and be more likely to purchase tickets to - movie theater showings with dedicated open captioning showtimes. We love to support our local theaters, but the access challenges we experience do mean we are currently more likely to opt for a movie at home. This would be a game changer for us and would make a world of difference for our DHH friends and colleagues.

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

Sincerely,

Shelby Graves
shelbygraves.mph@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 Lawrence Gray, 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.

Captioned movies need to be available at all times everyday, not limited to certain hours on certain days. Assistive devices such as captioning glasses and others are bulky, heavy, and, oftentimes, do not work. This often leads to frustration and missed viewings.

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

Sincerely,

Lawrence Gray
graystorm@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 Michael Graziano, and I am Deaf. 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,

Michael Graziano
mikey25@sudsborg.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 Logan Green, 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'm an interpreter at a school with a Deaf+ student. We took a field trip to the movies and before going we reached out to the theater if they could add a second open caption showing so my student would have access. They did!

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

Sincerely,

Logan Green
loganigreen77@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 Casey Greenberg, 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.

I saw Avengers Endgame in movie theaters twice and thought Clint Barton's daughter was named Violet. Only after I watched it at home with captions did I learn it was actually Lilah. If more open captioned showings were available, I could've understood on the first watch. Also, I enjoy theaters where the audience audibly reacts (laughing, cheering, etc) and having captions I think makes people less afraid of doing so because they're not worried about drowning out important dialogue.

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

Sincerely,

Casey Greenberg
wolfanaticasey@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 Rebecca Greenwald, 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,

Rebecca Greenwald
rmgreenwald72@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 Griffith, 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,

Carol Griffith
cjonmobile@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 Eddie Griffith, 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.

Enjoy watching captioned movies freely without using a special cupholder device.

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

Sincerely,

Eddie Griffith
muskygriff61@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 Griffiths, 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.

This bill will allow me to have access to public theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Griffiths
liebestod77@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Ashley Guchhait 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,

Ashley Guchhait
harryluvshermione@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 Amber Hajek, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

It's accessible for everyone including people who can hear. They don't miss out on what they say. Better than buying expensive devices for the Deaf we rely on access. Open captioning on every movie gives the same rights as people who can hear.

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

Sincerely,

Amber Hajek
anhajek1@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Stephanie Hamilton, and I am Deaf/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.

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hamilton
h6031@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 Danae Hampton, 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,

Danae Hampton
dgriff5500@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 Anya Harjung, and I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Anya Harjung
cripplepunk161@protonmail.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 Kathryn Harrington, 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.

I want to feel at home at the theater/movie.

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

Sincerely,

Kathryn Harrington
kathrynwch@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 Fred Hartman, 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,

Fred Hartman
fhartman6@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 Joseph Hartung, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

I need to understand the events going on. I know the service is cheaper to have an open caption than the interpretation so please put in favor of caption.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Hartung
jfhartung@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 Joan Harvey, 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,

Joan Harvey
joanharvey66@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 Tira Harvey, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Charles 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,

Tira Harvey
nlharvey2910@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 Debbie Hause, 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,

Debbie Hause
debbiehause@live.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 Hause, 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.

As a pastor who shepherds deaf people this is an important initiative and I'm thankful this is being addressed.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Hause
pastorstephenhause@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Ann Hirsch, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

My husband and I stopped going to the movie theater because we got tired of using the devices instead of movies printed with open captions. The devices tend not to be close to the screen and we would miss out the action of the moves while reading the captions. It is so much easier to read the open captions right on the screen at the same time seeing the movies with ease. So we just wait for the movies to show on TV then we can watch the movies. It would be nice that all movies are open captioned at all theaters so we can enjoy the BIG screen with open captioned subtitles along with the music and special effects around us where TV doesn't offer as much.

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

Sincerely,

Ann Hirsch
annahirsch61@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 Hirsch, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

David Hirsch
davy.hirsch@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 Greg Hlibok, 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 is critical that open-captioned movies be available for deaf patrons like myself. Without captions, the film is inaccessible. Just as it would be for a hearing audience to watch a movie with the sound turned off.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Hlibok
ghlibok@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 Hilary Hoagwood, 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.

I have a good friend who is Hard of Hearing and whose spouse is Deaf, and they have opened my eyes to so many areas where they do not have equal access as Hearing people do. I support this bill in order to make Maryland more equitable and accessible for people like my friends.

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

Sincerely,

Hilary Hoagwood
hilary.hoagwood@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 Linzee Hobgood, 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.

Providing captions helps everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Linzee Hobgood
linzeel1@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 Catherine Holmes 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.

Having open captions more available so the deaf and hard of hearing community can enjoy more movies in theaters is a good thing. Also, it is something the hearing community can benefit from as well. Everyone in my (hearing) home watches movies and shows (on Netflix or prime) with subtitles/captions turned on because sometimes it's hard to follow what's going on without them. I can definitely see us utilizing this in a theater as well if it were available to us.

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

Sincerely,

Catherine Holmes
catirving94@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 Logan Holtman, and I am Hard of 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.

I am glad I have come across this bill because I have removed myself from movie theaters due to not being able to understand the words spoken in the movies. It is an immersive experience for people who have no trouble hearing and for those that do because the noises are increased with surround sound so it becomes difficult to focus on spoken words. It would be beneficial to include open captions to cater to those who have trouble hearing and understanding in these circumstances.

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

Sincerely,

Logan Holtman
lholtman033@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 Kathrine Horn, 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,

Kathrine Horn
katjade3@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 Patricia Horne, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in St. Mary'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,

Patricia Horne
hornepe03@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 Sean Hourihan, 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 Hourihan
sfhourihan@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 Margena Hubbard, and I am Deaf. I live in Carroll County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Margena Hubbard
sue70tex@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 Thomas Hunt, 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,

Thomas Hunt
ichthus94117@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 Rena Hughes, 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,

Rena Hughes
renahughes_1999@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 Gausia Huq-Vali, 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.

Amendment makes more accessibility and availability on all days and time slots.

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

Sincerely,

Gausia Huq-Vali
malisami2122@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 J. Hyph, 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,

J. Hyph
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