

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 April Jackson-Woodard 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,

April Jackson-Woodard
apjrjacks@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 Angela Jackson 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,

Angela Jackson
amitchelle514@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 SJ Janjua, 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,

SJ Janjua
sjjan103@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Tammy Jerrett, and I am Deaf. 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.

I would like to feel normal like anyone else. I feel really handicapped having to carry around that captioning device. Having people stare at this thing in my hand when I request one. Not only that.. sometimes. I struggle to get a comfortable spot when I attach it to my cup holder and move around. I have to work quickly to look at the caption on my device and then at the screen. Some theaters have glasses as a caption device. Even though that one was easier. Still I'm wearing something in my face that a bunch of strangers had on their face. Which is uncomfortable for me. Open Caption is the best choice for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Tammy Jerrett
tigeress588@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 Rae Johnson, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

I've been mostly hard of hearing all my life but unable to hear speech very well. Now I'm deaf and rely on seeing words in signs or in print. Even with a hearing aid, the words that I hear now sound twisted and diminished so captions are essential. Reading captions provides greater clarity to the spoken word. Please let us see words we cannot hear at the movie theater.

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

Sincerely,

Rae Johnson
raejohnson21@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Robert Johnson, 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,

Robert Johnson
bobe.johnson@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 Vilas Johnson, 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,

Vilas Johnson
vmjohnson1@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 Ceasar Jones, 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.

While the 2024 legislation was a great start, limiting open captions to theaters with 8+ screens leaves many smaller communities and theaters behind. By lowering this threshold to theaters with four or more screens, we can ensure that open captioning becomes a standard norm rather than a rare exception.

Everyone deserves the chance to enjoy a movie without barriers. This bill is a common-sense update that increases equity without placing an undue burden on venues. I hope I can count on your support to move this bill forward.

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

Sincerely,

Caesar Jones
crankthesickat@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 Maria Joseph, 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.

My two deaf children have stopped going to the movies due to no availability for captioning. I feel this bill will be great.

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

Sincerely,

Maria Joseph
mariazai1974@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 Evelien Josselin, and I am a person learning English as a second language. 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 prefer captions as a non-native English speaker. My kids are hard of hearing and open captions are one of the only ways we can enjoy the movies together.

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

Sincerely,

Evelien Josselin
evelien.josselin@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 Tina Joyner, 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 met several deaf people in the area of Eastern Shores. They live all around the year; not just vacation spots. They want to watch open captioning movies in their areas so I am in favor of this bill.

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

Sincerely,

Tina Joyner
tmjoyner8@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 Simon Kallungal, 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,

Simon Kallungal
skallungal@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 Joyce Kane, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Joyce Kane
jkane3997@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 Adrian Kantor, 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,

Adrian Kantor
akantor1976@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Deborah Karp, and I am Deaf. I live in Queen Anne'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,

Deborah Karp
dckarp52064@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 Barbara Kaufman, 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,

Barbara Kaufman
barbarakaufman417@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Mary Keane, 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Mary Keane
marykeane93@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 Brenda Kelly-Frey, 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 am a CODA (Child of a Deaf Adult). When I was a child, my father would take me to the theater to watch movies. There were no captions at that time. When we returned home and we discussed the movie we just saw, sitting side-by-side, it was as if we were in DIFFERENT theaters. What he understood from the movies by not having captions was VERY different than what I got from the movie.

Fast forward to the present, we are VERY fortunate to have captions where EVERYONE (people that are hearing, deaf, hard of hearing, English as a 2nd language) are able to enjoy the movies. I have had many people comment about how beneficial it is to be able to rely on captions when the theater is noisy with people chatting, children crying, people seating themselves as the movie is playing, etc.

Please consider not only increasing the number of showings with captions but in order to level the playing field for the enjoyment of movie entertainment, require that ALL movies regardless of show time or day of the week be open captioned. It does not cost extra for the theaters to do this and it is the fair and equitable thing to do.

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

Sincerely,

Brenda Kelly-Frey
brendacfrey@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 Joshua Kelman, 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Joshua Kelman
joshkel74@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 Cheryl Kent, 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 am sending this to request your support of the HB 435 that will require open captioning of movies in movie theaters with 4 or more screens. Being able to "hear" through captions of the spoken words in movies is critical for deaf people to be able to attend and enjoy movies.

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl Kent
ck4sign@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 Christopher Kim, 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 love movies and I love sharing movie experiences with everyone. I hope others who need open captioning have a chance to enjoy movies, too. Too often, the devices that people need for captioning are either not charged or they malfunction. I think open captioning for more movie theaters is more efficient and a kind way to show that everyone is welcome in Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Christopher Kim
ckimc13@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 Sheelah Kimbrough, 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Sheelah Kimbrough
greenshel@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 Bobbie Jo Kite and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

I am tired of being constantly disappointed by movie theatres as a deaf person. Oftentimes, the devices to view captions are malfunctioning or I feel superbly othered by carrying out a huge device and being different in public with my family and friends. Open captioning allows me to go and enjoy movies with my family and friends.

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

Sincerely,

Bobbie Jo Kite
bobbiejokite@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 Sacha Klein, 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,

Sacha Klein
kleinsacha@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 Hans Koczorowski-Weidig, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

Captions have shown to improve reading comprehension and language acquisition. This bill isn't just about accessibility, but also improving the education of our citizens.

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

Sincerely,

Hans Koczorowski-Weidig
h.weidig.iv@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 Noella Kolash, 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 have deaf family members residing in Maryland whom I visit regularly. During my visits, we often plan to go out and watch movies together. This allows us to enjoy our time without having to coordinate plans around specific movie showtimes.

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

Sincerely,

Noella Kolash
noella@kolash.org

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Sagar Kothari, 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.

Limited accessibility for open-captioning for the limited time which required planning can be frustrating.

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

Sincerely,

Sagar Kothari
oceantetra@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 Smita Kothari, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

The open captions are essential to Deaf, Hard or Hearing or Deaf blind communities in different age and ethnic groups equal access to learning languages, dialogues and direct communication information from any different shows, movies and musics. Growing up in India, I had to rely on my family and siblings for information without subtitles. The language access is not only for Deaf people but also those who are learning English as second language learners. Thus, captions are important parts in our daily lives.

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

Sincerely,

Smita Kothari
oceanpeacock2810@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Sarah Kotra, and I am Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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.

My mother lost her hearing after being in the military. Being unable to hear the movie, she would fall asleep at the theater when she would take her grandchildren to the movies as she had no idea what was going on and the flashing lights became overwhelming without the input of an actual storyline. She stopped going to the movies. She was 42. My mom is now in her 60s and with the resurgence of musicals, would love to be able to participate in the theaters again. While she cannot hear the music, at least she could follow the storyline and "make up the music in my head" and enjoy the theater once again.

I also have a child with auditory processing disorder. We usually only see cartoons, but even they are getting complicated to watch without the words at the bottom as we do at home. It doesn't help that special effects keep getting louder and louder to "improve" the experience, when all we want to know is what the characters are saying.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Kotra
mum2smack@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Lee Kramer, 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.

It is extremely important for my deaf family to watch open caption films where four screens or more would be helpful.

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

Sincerely,

Lee Kramer
lee@kramerwealth.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Mary Arlene Kuscmider, 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,

Mary Arlene Kuscmider
kuschs3@comcast.net

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Erin Land brown and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County..

I am writing to request your support for **SB 259 – Places of Public Accommodation – Captioning**, sponsored by Senator Carl Jackson. This bill requires certain motion picture houses with fewer than eight screens to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Erin Land brown
Erinland@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 Todd Larsen, 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.

It is important for everyone to enjoy movies and many people benefit from open captioning.

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

Sincerely,

Todd Larsen
toddlarsen_99@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 Page Lasko, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

I enjoy going to watch an open caption movie with my two children without any hassle like not having to deal with glass devices that do not work in the middle of the movie.

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

Sincerely,

Page Lasko
laskojp@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Rosemary Latin, 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,

Rosemary Latin
RTLatin@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 Michelle Laws, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

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

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

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

I love going to movies and want to have full access to the open captions so more deaf people can go there and enjoy our times as the hearing people have their access to hear

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Laws
stellapaws@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 Jacob Leffler 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,

Jacob Leffler
JLeffler24@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 Irene Leigh, 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've experienced all the devices used for closed captioning and have had frustrating experiences with each one. I want to have an equal unfettered access with open captioning on the same basis as hearing attendees. I would appreciate your supporting this bill.

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

Sincerely,

Irene Leigh
irenewleigh@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 Ben Leonard and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Ben Lenoard
benjaminleo174@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 Beth Lesser, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

Open captioning assists not only Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons, but the elderly, those whose first language is not English, aging and late deafness and those of us who have difficulty with accents.

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

Sincerely,

Beth Lesser
blesser1951@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 Lestina, 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 am a CODA (child of deaf adults) and wish that I had more opportunities to see movies in the theater with my family growing up. Now I am glad to see efforts like this to make family experiences more possible in Maryland. As I get older, I also appreciate the availability of open-captioning in movies for my own benefit.

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

Sincerely,

Fred Lestina
fred.lestina@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 Lindsay, 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,

James Lindsay
lindsayagk@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Tammy Lloyd 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 have several friends who are deaf -having this will make their experience going to the movies better -also they won't be excluded when a group of us go to a movie.

Inclusion is important!

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

Sincerely,

Tammy Lloyd
Abernathy321@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 Theodore Logan, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Theodore Logan
sahlogan@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 Ricardo Lopez, 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.

Closed captions have played an important role in my personal and academic growth. By consistently reading captions while watching movies, educational tv programs, news and other media content, I was able to develop and expand my vocabulary, learn correct spelling, and better understand complex concepts. Closed captions also ensured that I had equal access to information, allowing me to follow discussions, instructions, and conversations with the same clarity as hearing individuals. This access not only supported my learning, but also reinforced the importance of inclusivity and equal communication for all.

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

Sincerely,

Ricardo Lopez
rilopi@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 Mark Lott, and I am Deaf. I live in Dorchester 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,

Mark Lott
mdlott58@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 Lugar, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

I am a Deaf mother of three children living in Maryland. For many families, it is a simple night out—laughing together, reacting together, and bonding through a story on screen. For Deaf individuals and Deaf families, that experience is often inaccessible or isolating.

Without captions, I cannot fully understand dialogue, humor, or emotional moments. While some theaters offer captioning devices, they are frequently broken, unavailable, uncomfortable, or distracting. Too often, I arrive at a theater only to be told the device is not working, leaving me with the choice to miss the movie or struggle through it without access.

As a mother, this is especially painful. I want to share normal family experiences with my children without barriers. I want to laugh at the same jokes, react to the same plot twists, and discuss the movie afterward—just like any other parent. Open captions allow that shared experience to happen naturally and equally.

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

Sincerely,

Laura Lugar
lauralugar7@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 Laureen Lynch-Ryan, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

The open captioning movies will bring me to relax and immerse into the flick without the captioned device that may be not flexible, disconnecting, and distracting as well as annoying. That part had not interested me to attend theatre movies. With the open captioning, I will be in the line to get a ticket to watch films, excited and anticipating what to expect without an annoying device.

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

Sincerely,

Laureen Lynch-Ryan
llynchryan@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 Mace, and I am Deaf, a person learning English as a second language. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Patricia Mace
pmace63@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 Mei Lee Mackleer, 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,

Mei Lee Mackleer
meimackleer@yahoo.com