

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Robert Padden, 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,

Robert Padden  
paddenrmkk@aol.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Eduardo Palabrica, 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 prefer open captions without the virtual device.

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

Sincerely,

Eduardo Palabrica  
evpalabrica@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Mary Jo Palmisano, 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,

Mary Jo Palmisano  
24palmo@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Sndrea Panella 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,

Sndrea Panella  
Amhpanella@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 Maureen Paton, 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,

Maureen Paton  
mopaton@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Kellye Payne, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kellye Payne  
kellyenpayne@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Arlyn Penaranda, 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,

Arlyn Penaranda  
penaranda.arlyn@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 Tamra Perkins, and I am Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

My son and I both benefit from captioning while viewing screens. We use it at home and I use it at work. Increasing this accessibility will greatly improve our movie going experience and allow us to attend more movies and have it be a more complete and enjoyable experience versus editing to watch the movies for the full experience on the screen at home where we can control the captioning.

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

Sincerely,

Tamra Perkins  
tdjcpa316@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Jessie Peters, 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.

We go to the movies near National Harbor all the time and have many friends in the deaf community. We'd love to go with them!

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

Sincerely,

Jessie Peters  
Jessie0628@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Cynthia Pettie, 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 movies! I love going to the movies! In the recent past, I've gone with family members to the movie theater at the Annapolis mall. I've often had to put up with the device that displays captions because it would not fit well into the arm rest and kept tilting. It was quite distracting. Also, I have amblyopia in one eye so it is difficult for me to look at the captions and enjoy the movies with just one workable eye. I would think paying full price for the movie was not justified.

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

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pettie  
cynpeters@comcast.net

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Charles Pitcher, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Charles Pitcher  
pitchmee1@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Lindsay Pollock, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Lindsay Pollock  
lindz0902@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Vikki Porter, 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.

Fewer screen requirements equals more access and inclusion for everyone!

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

Sincerely,

Vikki Porter  
porter.vikki.l@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Theresa Posthuma, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Theresa Posthuma  
taposthuma@aol.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Katie Poston, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Katie Poston  
katposton14@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Kirsten Poston, 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,

Kirsten Poston  
mkposton@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Melissa Potolsky, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

I would like to be able to watch any movie I want with open captioning at any time and anywhere, especially at Regal Theatres which do not currently provide that option.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Potolsky  
melissapotolsky@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Francesca Prado, and I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

Caption devices don't always work. Open Captions makes the movies accessible for everyone. We all deserve to have fun.

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

Sincerely,

Francesca Prado  
francescafamily@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 Jo Prado, and I am Hard of Hearing/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.

I am doing it for my daughter.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Prado  
maryjoprado@comcast.net

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Ilona Price, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Ilona Price  
i.price180@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 Mike Purkey, and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mike Purkey  
mike.purkey@dila.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 Carrie Quigley, 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.

Open Captioning does not just benefit individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, but those of us who are senior citizens who cannot always hear the entire dialogue in movies, as well as young people learning to read. At our home, we have our captioning on at all times and utilize it on a daily basis.

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

Sincerely,

Carrie Quigley  
pcquigley@comcast.net

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Taylor Ramage, 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.

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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,

Taylor Ramage  
tr\_ramage@hotmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Zackary Raposo, 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.

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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.

As a person with a Deaf dad and a Deaf cousin as well as many other Deaf friends and loved ones, seeing open captioning in movie theaters would be a huge win for our community. Accessibility shouldn't be negotiable.

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

Sincerely,

Zackary Reposo  
zackraposo323@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Nancy Ravindra, 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.

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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,

Nancy Ravindra  
nanravindra@yahoo.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Sheila Ray, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

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

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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,

Sheila Ray  
snerdboff@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 Jasmine Akhtar, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jasmine Akhtar  
jasmineak16@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Matthew Rice, and I am a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

I represent people on the go Maryland which is the statewide self advocacy and systems advocacy organization ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities we support this bill because we feel that all Marylanders have the right to participate in recreation and in all other parts of community life this legislation will make Maryland more inclusive, it will help a struggling industry by making it more accessible. Please consider that nowadays many people who need accessibility for films can wait until it comes out through streaming and have their accessibility needs met at home if not in public. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Sincerely,

Matthew Rice  
Executive Director  
mat@pomd.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 Diana Rodriguez Flores, and I am a person learning English as a second language. 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,

Diana Rodriguez Flores  
dlrflores29@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Terese Rognmo, 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.

Open captioned is an important part of our communication accessibility. It is not just for Deaf but also for everyone who can learn the English language by reading open captioned sentences and I would not miss any words when I cannot hear spoken language clearly. I love watching movies and open captions give me an opportunity to understand the plot and be able to laugh, cry, mad or smile. Without captions, I am likely to misunderstand the whole point of the story without knowing what the plot is about.

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

Sincerely,

Terese Rognmo  
tereserognmo@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Jon Roll, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jon Roll  
jr12401@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 Jen Roman, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jen Roman  
jroman8414@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is RRoz Rosen, 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,

RRoz Rosen  
rozrosen@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Lore Rosenthal, 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.

Open captions help me understand accents or actors who talk too fast.

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

Sincerely,

Lore Rosenthal  
simplicitygroupsmd@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Victoria Rotzel 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.

I hear "well enough" with my hearing aids - but I miss spoken detail at times. Listening in a theater presents more challenges. Open Captions can be helpful. How helpful? Well, if there are Open Captions..... I tend to read them. Every word. Makes movies going much easier. With captions I no longer want to ask the person beside what was said.

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

Sincerely,

Victoria Rotzel  
vrotzel@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Millie Russo, 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,

Millie Russo  
akronite48@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

My name is R. S., and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore County.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

R. S.  
cdecejs@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 Issack Samedi, and I am Deaf, a person learning English as a second language. 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,

Issack Samedi  
issacksamedi25@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 Jerry Sansonese, 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.

I believe all people, hearing or deaf, should have more access to mainstream movies.

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

Sincerely,

Jerry Sansonese  
gsans@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 Gus Saravia, 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,

Gus Saravia  
gussaravia1@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 Carley Saster, 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 Teacher of the Deaf and Hard-of Hearing, as well as an ASL Interpreting student at CCBC. I fully support language access for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community.

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

Sincerely,

Carley Saster  
carleysaster@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 Ismella Saul-Jones, 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,

Ismella Saul-Jones  
ismella.saul@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 Trina Schooley, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Trina Schooley  
trinaschooley@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 Jaxson Schor, and I am a Hearing, and a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Baltimore City.

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

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

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

I had many deaf friends growing up and often we couldn't see movies together because there would only be one or two captioned showings total, always in the middle of a weekday when we were all in school. Especially living in Frederick at the time with such a large Deaf/HoH community, it was so frustrating to see such a blatant failure of providing accessible media. I also have an auditory processing disorder that leaves me avoiding the movies as it is an extremely frustrating and pointless experience. I think this bill is critically important and should have been passed decades ago, but the second best time is now.

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

Sincerely,

Jaxson Schor  
jax88@duck.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Ruth Ann Schornstein, 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.

While I was growing up, I had to guess what they were talking about. But now, it has an open caption. I was very surprised that I misunderstood the story. I was shocked that Open Caption helped me.

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

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Schornstein  
aslcu@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 Thelma Schroeder, 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 fortunate to live in a county with many movie theaters that have four or more screens. However, many Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing individuals living in other counties do not have the same access. When theaters are allowed to decide voluntarily whether to provide open-captioned movies, the result is very limited and unequal access across the state.

This lack of access is not fair. Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, and hearing people alike all pay taxes and contribute to our communities. We should all have equal opportunities to enjoy public entertainment such as movies. Open captioning benefits not only the Deaf and hard of hearing community, but also seniors, people learning English, and families attending movies together.

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

Sincerely,

Thelma Schroeder  
tiggy668@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Jessica Schulte, 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,

Jessica Schulte  
jlschulte21@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 Teri Scotton, 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,

Teri Scotton  
tmscotton@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 Deanna Scott, 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,

Deanna Scott  
dmScott1222@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 Eric Scott, 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 like movies. I like them much better when I understand the dialogue!

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

Sincerely,

Eric Scott  
esdm.scott@gmail.com