

February 17, 2026

Good afternoon Government, Labor, and Election Committee

My name is Gabrielle Davis, and I am the President of Prince George's County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD).

We would like to point out three areas about HB 435. What this bill can do for the diverse community.

1. The problem is real

Theaters give out special caption glasses on screens, but they often don't work, run out, or are uncomfortable. Many people feel embarrassed using them. Open captions — words right on the screen like in foreign films — would fix this for good.

2. Theaters that tried it saw more customers

Big chains like AMC and Regal already do open-caption showings in some places. Open captions make movies easier for kids learning to read, people learning English, anyone with hearing trouble, and even people who like subtitles to catch every word. When they do open captions, more people come — families, students, older adults — and the theaters make more money, not less.

3. Other places are already doing it

Some states and big theater chains like AMC and Regal already do open-caption screenings, and it doesn't hurt their business — it actually brings in more customers. It's not hard or expensive for theaters to do.

Please help us here

I'm asking you to support a new law that requires theaters in our state to show open captions for some movies every week. This small change would let thousands of people like me enjoy movies again.

Thank you so much for listening.

Gabrielle Davis

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