

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelby Abdilah, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah
shelby.abdilah@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leah Adekunle-Raji, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery 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,

Leah Adekunle-Raji
leah.raji@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tiasha Akinsete, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery 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,

Tiasha Akinsete
deafrulers@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nkiruka Akunwafor, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Nkiruka Akunwafor
msnkikia@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kafayat Alabi, and I am Deaf. I live in Washington 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,

Kafayat Alabi
princess_akat@yahoo.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ali Mansour, and I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind/Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

I am writing as a Brother in law of a couple who are hearing-impaired individuals to express my strong support for the Open Captioning Movies Bill and to share why this legislation would make a real difference in their lives.

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

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

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

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

I respectfully urge you to support the Open Captioning Movies Bill. Your vote can help ensure that movie theaters across Maryland become more inclusive and welcoming for all.

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

Sincerely,

Ali Mansour
Mansour_ali@yahoo.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Aboud Alkathiri, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

About Alkathiri

aboutkathiri@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Laura Aristizabal, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

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,

Laura Aristizabal
lauragiraldoari@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Larissa Baer, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Larissa Baer
larissacbaer@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Nat Balsley, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nat Balsley
natbalsley@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Joi Bannister, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Joi Bannister
joi@joyfulsigning.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brian Barron, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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,

Brian Barron
bjbarron13@aol.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Barron, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Barron
ebarrontuowl@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

I am writing to request your support for **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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Christi Batamula
cbatamula@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Susan Beaver, and I am Hearing. I live in Wicomico 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,

Susan Beaver
susanbeaver155@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Suzi Behun and I am Deaf. I live in Howard 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,
Suzi Behun
suzi@behun.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Brooke Bennett, and I am Hearing. I am not a Maryland resident.

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,

Brooke Bennett
bnbennett1998@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Holly Bentz, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick 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,

Holly Bentz
chinadol1009@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is David Bernard, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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,

David Bernard
david32bern@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is James Biesel, and I am Deaf. I live in Howards 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,

James Biesel
jamesbiesel@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cindy Blair, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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,

Cindy Blair
cblair894@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cheyenne Blakeley, and I am Hearing. I live in Cecil 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,

Cheyenne Blakeley
cskyblake@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Taylor Blakeley, and I am Hearing. I live in Cecil 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Taylor Blakeley
sondersigns@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jillian Bleggi, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard 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,

Jillian Bleggi
jillian.bleggi@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Theresa Blume, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Allegany County.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Theresa Blume
blume_theresa@yahoo.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Bolin, and I am Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to request your support for **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,

Elizabeth Bolin
lizbolin@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Laura Brahle, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Laura Brahle
LBrahle5519@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Vanishe Buchanan, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore 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,

Vanishe Buchanan
Vanishe.Buchanan@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Theresa Buckle, and I am Deaf. I live in Caroline 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,

Theresa Buckle
tbdool5@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heidi Burghardt, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Heidi Burghardt
haburghardt@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Greg Burkholder, and I am Deaf. I am not a Maryland resident.

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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Greg Burkholder
Everything.is.so.shiny@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Savannah Burris, and I am DeafBlind. I live in Baltimore City.

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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Savannah Burris
sav.burris@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rachel Burton, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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,

Rachel Burton
rach@suchalovelyred.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Leslie Caldwell, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Leslie Caldwell
lrcaldwell29@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jose Castillo, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore City.

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,

Jose Castillo
jactwin28@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mikaela Castillo, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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,

Mikaela Castillo
josecasstillo@hotmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shaji Chacko, 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 **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.

I need movies in the theater to be captioned because my English needs to be improving.

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

Sincerely,

Shaji Chacko
scdeaf@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carolann Chambers, and I am Hearing and a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Howard 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,

Carolann Chambers
carolannchambers23@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jessica Chavis, and I am Hearing. I live in Harford 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,

Jessica Chavis
jesschavis@ymail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jina Choi, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery 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.

A Deaf Maryland resident and parent, I strongly support the Open Captioning Movies Bill. I rely on captions to fully understand movies, yet closed-captioning devices are often unreliable, unavailable, or uncomfortable, forcing me to miss out on an experience hearing audiences enjoy freely. This is especially painful when attending movies with my son, as I want to share those moments and conversations with him without barriers. Open captioning provides equal access, independence, and dignity for Deaf and hard of hearing people while also benefiting many others, and I respectfully urge you to pass this bill so all Marylanders can enjoy movies equally.

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

Sincerely,

Jina Choi
choi79jinah@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Dana Christianson, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

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.

I am deeply saddened to think that there are so many in our community who don't have access to the simple pleasure of going to the movies. This legislation would not take away from my experience and would mean more access for others. Maryland should follow through on its promise of inclusion and pass the Open Caption Movie bill. Thank you for your leadership.

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

Sincerely,

Dana Christianson
dana.christianson@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Bradley Christlieb, and I am Deaf. I live in Calvert 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.

I love supporting local businesses in Prince Frederick, but the current lack of open captioning screenings makes it difficult to plan outings with my diverse group of friends. When a theater provides open captions, they aren't just showing a movie; they are signaling that everyone is welcome. By requiring more open-captioned showtimes, Maryland can lead the way in making sure that a night at the movies is an accessible tradition for all citizens, regardless of their hearing status.

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

Sincerely,

Bradley Christlieb
bradleychristlieb@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kalila Clay, and I am Hearing. I am not a Maryland resident.

I am writing to request your support for **SB 259 – Places of Public Accommodation** – 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.

My mother is deaf and if closed captioned movies are offered more she wouldn't have to wait until a movie is available on television.

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

Sincerely,

Kalila Clay
kalilaclay4@hotmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Steven Cole, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel 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.

Open caption is better than closed caption because it requires wearing glasses which can cause headaches.

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

Sincerely,

Steven Cole
smcole52@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Deborah Colon-Martin, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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,

Deborah Colon-Martin
decm417@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Theo Conley, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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,

Theo Conley
killatevo@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Ann Conroy, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery 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,

Ann Conroy
aconro@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sarah Conry, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Baltimore 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.

For most people, going to the movies is easy—you buy a ticket and get lost in the story. For me, it's different. Without open captions, watching a film feels like trying to follow a conversation through a wall. I catch bits of dialogue but spend the movie guessing and worrying I've missed something important instead of enjoying it.

With open captions, everything changes. I can fully understand the dialogue, humor, and emotion, and I'm free to simply enjoy the film. Open captions don't just make movies accessible—they give me the dignity of equal participation in a shared experience.

What surprised me most is how much they've helped my husband, too. Though he isn't deaf or hard of hearing, captions clarify dialogue in quiet, fast, or music-heavy scenes. His experience is better as well, showing that accessibility benefits everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Conry
sarahjconry@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kim Craig, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick 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,

Kim Craig
kimmariee@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Melissa Cordero, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick.

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,

Melissa Cordero
mjmjhcordero@verizon.net