

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Kirsten Poston, 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,

Kirsten Poston
mkposton@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 Melissa Potolsky, 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 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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Melissa Potolsky
melissapotolsky@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 Francessca 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 **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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Francessca Prado
francescaemily@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 Ilona Price, 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,

Ilona Price
i.price180@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 Ramage, and I am 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.

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

Sincerely,

Taylor Ramage
tr_ramage@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 Zackary Raposo, and I am 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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Zackary Raposo
zackraposo323@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 Nancy Ravindra, and I am Deaf. I live in Dorchester 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,

Nancy Ravindra
nanravindra@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 Sheila Ray, 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,

Sheila Ray
snerdboff@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 Terese Rognmo, 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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Terese Rognmo
tereserognmo@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 Jon Roll, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jon Roll
jr12401@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 RRoz Rosen, 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,

RRoz Rosen
rozrosen@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 Lore Rosenthal, 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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Lore Rosenthal
simplicitygroupsmd@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 Victoria Rotzel and I am Hard of 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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rotzel
vrotzel@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 Millie Russo, 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,

Millie Russo
akronite48@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 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 **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,

R. S.
cdecejs@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 Jerry Sansonese, 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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sansonese
gsans@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 Gus Saravia, 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,

Gus Saravia
gussaravia1@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 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 **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,

Ismella Saul-Jones
ismella.saul@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 Trina Schooley, and I am Hard of 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,

Trina Schooley
trinaschooley@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 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 **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 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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Jaxson Schor
jax88@duck.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 Thelma Schroeder, 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.

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 SB 259.

Sincerely,

Thelma Schroeder
tiggy668@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 Schulte, 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,

Jessica Schulte
jlschulte21@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 Teri Scotton, 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,

Teri Scotton
tmscotton@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 Christopher Sewell, 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.

Open-captions is the only and best way to watch movies in the theaters. Other systems often have glitches that ruin the experiences.

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

Sincerely,

Christopher Sewell
itschrissewell@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 Katherine Shenoy, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine Shenoy
katdeaf@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 Melanue Sifuentes, and I am Hard of Hearing. 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,

Melanue Sifuentes
Melcalsif@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 Bharat Singh, 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,

Bharat Singh
bharat@msada-dc.org

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Crystal Sisk, 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,

Crystal Sisk
Csisk1994@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 Lisa Skaggs, 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.

Open captioning provides full access for everyone who loves to read and improve their English. It provides an inclusive environment for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Skaggs
ljskaggs58@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 Alfred Sonnenstrahl, 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.

I sat next to a hearing mid-aged woman while watching an open-captioned(OC) movie. At the end, I asked her what she thought of OC, she admitted she had to read them at times, especially in the midst of noisy scenes.

According to statistics, about 30-35% of people over 60 years old have hearing loss. Often they either don't realize or deny their hearing loss. With OC, they either realize or feel more comfortable with their hearing loss.

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

Sincerely,

Alfred Sonnenstrahl
alsonny@icloud.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 Sam Sonnenstrahl, 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,

Sam Sonnenstrahl
samuel.Sonnenstrahl@gallaudet.edu

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shanna Sorrells, 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.

Many years ago, as a child, I wrote a letter to Jack Valenti asking when ALL movies would be captioned because I had finally seen my first open captioned film and was THRILLED that I was able to participate and go to the movies with my friends and family. He wrote back and promised me that within 20 years time, I would see captions everywhere. It has now been 30 years, and while yes, there are closed captioning options, I still can't access it 100%. I had a concussion a year and a half ago, and now the closed captioning makes me dizzy and nauseated when I attend films. I now feel like that young Deaf child again, and can't say yes to going to movies anymore unless they are open captioned. Not just Deaf, but also hearing, hard-of-hearing, those with processing disorders, those learning English as a second language, ADHD, even people who just miss a word here and there, etc! benefit from open captions...people everywhere are utilizing captions now--it is not disruptive. It is clarifying, accessible, and opens up the world for so many.

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

Sincerely,

Shanna Sorrells
sorrells1218@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 Amy Southwick, and I am Hard of 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.

I often miss spoken words despite my hearing aids and often cannot lip-read the dialog because of camera angle. Captions are a necessity for many of us. [Age 83]

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

Sincerely,

Amy Southwick
amysouthwick1942@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 Matt Sprague and I am Hard of 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,

Matt Sprague
mattspraguephotography@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 Michael Stancil, 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.

Please add the open caption to all public cinemas if possible but can accept 4 screens more without using the equipment for closed caption. Everyone can enjoy watching the movies with as many movie options as possible.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Stancil
MPKafkan@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 Diana Steinhauser, 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,

Diana Steinhauser
peachnok@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 Mickayla Stewart, 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 **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 started the American Sign Language Club at my Alma mater because of the lack of accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing individuals on campus. As a hearing advocate, I urge everyone to include closed captions on every audio, especially on social media. Using a captioning device at a movie theater isn't the greatest experience either. I would know as someone who is neurodivergent. Captions and accessibility helps everyone. After all, texting was invented for deaf people.

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

Sincerely,

Mickayla Stewart
mickaylastewart@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 Elizabeth Stone, 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,

Elizabeth Stone
lizstone@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 Caroline Suggs, 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,

Caroline Suggs
ThatCarrie@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 Trudy Suggs, 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.

As the Deaf mother to four Deaf children and the daughter of two Deaf senior citizens, open captioning has been a blessing for our family. We now can go watch movies as a family and not worry about dealing with clunky headgear that literally hurts our faces, covers our glasses, and is very conspicuous. However, we are still limited to very few film showing times, so we have to accommodate the theater's availability instead of the other way around. With this legislation, we'll have more options and be able to spend more time together as a family unit.

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

Sincerely,

Trudy Suggs
trudysuggs@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 Nevy Sutee, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. 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,

Nevy Sutee
mysha_us@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 Laura Sweeney, 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 only go to movies that offer Open Captions. Other devices were useless.

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

Sincerely,

Laura Sweeney
laurawsweeney@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 Payal Sweet, 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 was growing up in Kansas, after from India, I never watched movies in a movie theater. There were no accessible options for me—no equipment, no assistance, and no captions. Movie theaters were simply not spaces where I felt included.

That changed years later when a Bollywood movie was released with open captions. I was incredibly excited. It wasn't my first movie ever, but it was the first time I truly experienced a movie theater with open captions. I didn't need to ask for special devices, worry about broken equipment, or depend on staff. Everything was clear, visible, and easy to follow. For the first time, the movie theater felt welcoming and accessible.

This experience shows why open captioning in Maryland is so important. Open captions allow Deaf people to enjoy movies independently and equally, just like everyone else. They also benefit many others, including people with auditory processing differences, non-native English speakers, children learning to read, and families watching together.

Accessibility should not depend on special requests or limited showtimes. Open captions create inclusion by default. Making open-captioned movies more widely available in Maryland ensures that Deaf people are not excluded from shared cultural experiences and can fully participate in community life.

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

Sincerely,

Payal Sweet
payal@msada-dc.org

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rana Taneja, 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,

Rana Taneja
tanejar48@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 Sherrie Tarry, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sherrie Tarry
starryann74@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 Cathy Thompson and I am Deaf. I live in Charles 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,

Cathay Thompson
Gibberd56@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 Richard Thompson, and I am Deaf. I live in Charles 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,

Richard Thompson
deafsumo1@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 Linda Tom, 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.

Everyday I watch the captions on TV. So, do the same thing with the movies (theaters).

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

Sincerely,

Linda Tom
lctom71@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 Deanna Tilden, 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.

There is currently no movie theater in Baltimore City with eight screens. Reducing the requirement to four or more screens would improve access for residents, especially those who need theaters closer to their homes.

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

Sincerely,

Deanna Tilden
dtilden86@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 Kadie Tower, 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,

Kadie Tower
kadietower@gmail.com