

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Erin Land brown
Erinland@gmail.com

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lisa Montalvo-Diaz, 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 love going to the movies. I do not want to be stuck with one option with one movie that I do not want to watch. I want to be able to go anytime and any day to watch an open captioned movie. I am tired of using the closed captioned devices and often it would not work. When it didn't work, I had to go back to the front office to have it fixed and I will miss some of the movie when it started. That's not fair to me.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Montalvo-Diaz
montalvom@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 Jessie Peters, 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Jessie Peters
Jessie0628@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 Sylvie Soulier 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.

My wife and son are deaf. It would be amazing if they could be guaranteed the same access that hearing people have. I use CC on my tv to help with not missing dialogue. Captioning is an asset to everyone. Please pass this. Let's do good for our community.

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

Sincerely,

Sylvie Soulier
Sylvie.soulier@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 Regina Spence, 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 see movies that have open captions because sometimes the device doesn't work well and most are damaged depending how often used.

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

Sincerely,

Regina Spence
msdivah70@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 Stephanie Summers, 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.

Open captions benefit everyone! It will allow us to feel inclusive!

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Summers
srsummers4@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 Gregg Trainor, 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.

This is the 21st century and we, the deaf and hard of hearing people deserve better qualities in our life. OC movies are one of the keys of quality that we want to have in this century. So please approve the plans for OC movies!

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

Sincerely,

Gregg Trainor
greggt78@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 Hatim Vali, 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.

Accessibility and availability are critical components of equality in the public/general community.

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

Sincerely,

Hatim Vali
deflmg@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 Kalpana Varia 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,

Kalpana Varia
dharshiv15@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 Dominic Vera, 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,

Dominic Vera
domvera83@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 Gerald Voltmann, 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,

Gerald Voltmann
gdvoltmann@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 Jill Waldbieser, 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 am the parent of a Deaf child and know firsthand how accessibility matters.

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

Sincerely,

Jill Waldbieser
jwaldbieser@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 Arlyce Watson, 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.

Open-captioned movies benefit Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in many ways, such as improving language skills and helping them learn English if it is not their first language.

Open captioning does not only help the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; it also benefits young hearing children by helping them learn to read and spell certain words. In addition, foreigners can improve their reading and spelling skills in English. I have noticed that many foreigners, such as Hispanic individuals, may speak English better than they read or write it. Therefore, open captioning can be beneficial for them as well.

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

Sincerely,

Arlyce Watson
vaughtwatson@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 Tammy Weiner, 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 captioning never fails us while captioning through devices is often problematic. I never have peace going to theaters that only depend on captioning devices. I am grateful that closed captioning is available on TV and do not understand why we can't enjoy the same access in theaters.

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

Sincerely,

Tammy Weiner
lanierweiner@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 Michele Westfall 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 a Frederick County resident, I'm fortunate that I have access to two movie theaters which provide open captioned movies on a regular basis. But my children, who live with their father in Baltimore, aren't so fortunate. They do not have access to open captioned movies in their area and using captioning equipment is tough for them and it's worse when there are issues with the equipment. Open captions take care of these issues. Please support this bill, as it's essential.

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

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall
fuzzyw5@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 Carrie White, 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,

Carrie White
hearts9987@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 Katherine White, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to request your support for **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 hearing person and ally to the Deaf Community, I feel that having more theater showing with open captions would be beneficial to many moviegoers.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine White
kewwhite598@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 Mary Anne White, 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.

Three generations of Deaf families deserve a full literacy.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Anne White
maryannewhite54@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 Roy White, and I am Deaf/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,

Roy White
rwhite8088@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 Jody Williams, 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.

It is disheartening to my two hearing children that movie theater plans have to be dropped because it's inaccessible to me. We end up going 35 miles out of the way for a captioned movie we want to see at a time that works for us.

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

Sincerely,

Jody Williams
JodyDB@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 Shannon Winston, 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.

I have to use those clunky closed caption devices when I go to theaters. Not all theaters even have them. Or don't have them fully functional or charged. Open captions would help a lot.

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

Sincerely,

Shannon Winston
slynnewinston@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 Elsie Winters, and I am Deaf. I live in Kent 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 grew up hearing impaired but now I am totally Deaf with a cochlear implant. I depend totally on tv captioning and even hearing members of my family use it. I would be clueless with captioned news, movies, and tv programs. Please provide open captioning accessible for everyone.

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

Sincerely,

Elsie Winters
kentco4@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 Susan Wolf, 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.

My mother lost her hearing starting in middle age, and my sister and I have followed in her footsteps. She depended on captions for comprehension when watching films as I do now. Without captions, I cannot understand what people in the film are saying. My sister was in the same position before she passed away. Open captions are WONDERFUL! I can watch and understand without juggling a captioning device or wearing captioning glasses (heavy) over my prescription glasses. If you want to buy popcorn and a soda at the theater, and also have to lug a captioning device, it gets very messy. If you have to watch an entire film with those heavy glasses pressing on your nose, it gets very uncomfortable. Open captions are a lifesaver.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Wolf
quakerwolf@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 Dianna Yamada, 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 can not enjoy going to the movies with my husband who can hear. I also can't go during the limited hours offered for captioning movies. Please make OC equitable and accessible.

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

Sincerely,

Dianna Yamada
mygreentea68@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 Viola Woolums, 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.

As a hearing person, I would love to be able to go to the movies with my deaf friends. As it is, our theater experience is not equal, and the currently available captioning devices do not work well enough to allow someone to enjoy a movie like I do at the theater. In a time when people are not going to the movies as much in general, I think it's unfortunate that the inaccessibility of the experience is what's holding our deaf and hard of hearing neighbors back.

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

Sincerely,

Viola Woolums
mrkitty1988@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 Damon Wright, and I am Hearing, a person with a neurodivergent, auditory processing disorder, or similar medical condition. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to request your support for **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.

Captions help give me clarity during a film, and allow me to enjoy a movie with friends and family out in public so I don't have to wait for a movie to go to home streaming to comprehend it.

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

Sincerely,

Damon Wright
dbradway28@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 Sage Zoz, and I am 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sage Zoz
sagezoz@proton.me