



DATE: February 16, 2023 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Judicial Proceedings
BILL NO: Senate Bill 400
BILL TITLE: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports Senate Bill 400 - Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 400 would require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture.

Background:

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

Rationale:

Kennedy Krieger strongly supports SB400, which will ensure that all movie theaters in the state of Maryland will provide at least two open captioned movies per week (one during the week and one during the weekend). The open captioned movies will be hugely beneficial for all people of all ages, including children, adults, second language learners, people with reading challenges, and more. This legislation will ensure that all Marylanders have the pleasure of fully engaging in leisure activities in our communities.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 400.