

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Margaret Tyler, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Margaret Tyler
4peggytyler@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Steve Tyler, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Steve Tyler
tybiz4@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Sandie Van Garrell, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

My native county is Caroline and there are dire needs for captions in theatre. Easton it's as of Talbot County.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,
Sandie Van Garrell
sandie2girls@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Maureen van Stone, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I am the director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute, which is Maryland's only University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. The MCDD's mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities through four core functions: preservice training and continuing education; community service and technical assistance; research and evaluation; and information dissemination.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Maureen van Stone
vanstone@kennedykrieger.org

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Apurva Varia and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I love going to the movies; however, it pains me when I use the Sony glasses or rear display device because I had a hard time watching the captions when the devices are not reliable and/or not very user friendly. So that is why I prefer to see the captions that make my life much easier.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Apurva Varia
apuvarya@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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 ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,
Kalpana Varia
Kalapu_2@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Madan Vasishta, and I am Deaf. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Madan Vasishta
madanv41@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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 ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Some movie theaters provide open caption films at only certain times and just only release on the first weekend. Thereafter, they no longer show in the movie theaters and they offer special equipment for captions that we are not pleased to use. I'd like to see the open caption films in the movie theater at any time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Dominic Vera
domvera83@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Angela L. Vogt, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,
Angela L. Vogt
angela.louise.49@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Julia Wallace and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Imagine when the new movie releases on the first day at the movie theatre, thousand hearing people show up the movie theatre on the first day and yet deaf people cannot show up on the first day due to no open caption. Deaf people deserve treatment and should be treated equally like hearing people. Enjoyment in everyday life is important to the majority of deaf people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Julia Wallace
Julia.wallace@1970@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Michele A. Walsh, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michele A. Walsh
Walshm04@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Niki Warman, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I am thankful we have a couple of movie theatres providing open captioning however it's on selected dates/selected movies. It would be nice to have ALL movies with open captioning ALL the time instead of trying to figure out schedule to see if I can make it to a particular movie/time/date. So, with this being said I fully support the open captioning bill for movie theatres.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Niki Warman
niki.warman@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Tedd Warshauer, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Hate to wear caption goggles or rear-view captions devices as I sometime missed part of action/picture of movies. The best captions are on screen so I can see the whole action/picture of the movies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Tedd Warshauer
tgwarshauer@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Mary Thelma Weiner, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

My experience is that I love open captioned films but they are rarely available in our county. Deaf people are not the only ones benefiting from watching captioned films. Don't forget that many elderly people are losing their hearing. Captioned films help enhance reading and writing for everybody, not just the deaf. Captioned devices are not always reliable and very uncomfortable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mary Thelma Weiner
lanierweiner@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stephen Weiner, and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I am tired of captioning equipment that does not work 90% of the time and after replacing equipment, I usually miss 50% of the movie and SOMETIMES I get a refund or even worse credit to use on later dates. I've stopped going to movies and only to when there's open caption, so I have missed out movies from my theater experience. Why bother going to movies!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Stephen Weiner
sfweiner@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Janet Sue Weinstock, and I am Deaf. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Growing up I watched movies in the theater with my family and with a non signing date and I felt left out. No idea what the movies were all about. Now, I don't go out to the movies if they are not captioned. What a loss.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,
Janet Sue Weinstock
janetweinstock13@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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 Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Many times, my movie-viewing experience has been ruined by faulty captioning equipment. I want to be able to simply walk into any movie theater and see open captions on the screen.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Michele Westfall
fuzzyw5@yahoo.com

February 16, 2023

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 ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I had adapted the Closed Captioned box since 1970 and watched most limited good films. I was born to a Deaf family. Deprived from all watching TV programs and still facing the public theater without captions, I hope this time will give us a chance to be at the movie theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann White
maryannwhite47@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Aaron Whittington, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,
Aaron Whittington
veganrok@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rebecca Whittington, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I am fortunate to go to a movie theatre to watch with Open Captioning that's available in my area so I am hopeful this law will help Maryland AND all states to have all movies with Open Captioning so everyone can enjoy watching it without worry.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Whittington
rwhittington15@gmail.com