
JESSAMYN WEST - VERMONT MUTUAL AID SOCIETY



January 20, 2020

Rep. Ann Pugh
Chair, House Human Services Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Representative Pugh

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I am writing in strong support of H. 312, encouraging captions in movie theaters. I live in Randolph, in Orange County Vermont and work helping people primarily seniors, learn to use technology. Many of the people I work with view technology as a lifeline to content they can't otherwise access. Many have accessibility challenges such as low vision or, particularly, hearing loss.

As I'm sure you know, hearing aids are expensive and often not covered by health insurance and so many Vermonters wind up isolated without access to cultural content or being unable to follow along with a movie. This bill which is supported by AARP Vermont will not only improve access to movies for the hearing impaired but actually provide a better experience for a wide variety of people who can get more out of movies, from noisy crunchers to English language learners to people who just process information better when it is written.

I am optimistic that this bill will be helpful for people. I am concerned that there is a strong lobby against it if that is coming from outside Vermont. I encourage you to get the facts and support H. 312. Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely yours,

Jessamyn West
