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University of Vermont  
MEDICAL CENTER

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February 3, 2020

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

Dear Representative Pugh,

The purpose of this letter is to show my support for the recently introduced bill H.312, which would allow for open captioning in movie theaters in Vermont. Understanding speech information in movies is difficult for individuals with hearing impairment, very often even with use of amplification devices. Many people with hearing loss avoid going to the movies due to these difficulties and wait until they can watch them on television with closed captioning. If opening captioning for movie theaters was available to Vermont residents, it would improve their socialization as they could attend movies with their friends and families.

As an audiologist in Vermont, I am aware of the large portion of the population who have hearing impairment living in our state. When discussing areas of hearing difficulty with patients, many of them report the negative experience of trying to see a movie at the theater. They would be grateful to have the option of open captioning for movies so that they do not have to avoid social outings or having to hold off on seeing a new film due to the lack of better access for them to receive accommodations at the local theaters. Even with normal hearing, I personally experience missing portions of dialogue during movies so this bill can extend to improve the movie experience for more than just those with hearing loss.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Campbell, ScD  
Audiology Services  
University of Vermont Medical Center