

January 21, 2020

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

Dear Rep. Pugh:

I am writing to inquire about the H. 312 bill. I am a hard of hearing resident in Waterbury. It's absurd to me that I have been deprived of opportunities to be an engaged or a contributing member of our society due to lack of accessibility. I feel it's tough for me to go to events because I am unable to hear or understand what's going on.

Having the opportunity to be able to go check out movies at any movie theater makes sense. The ADA has been around for over 26 years. People who have hearing losses aren't asking for much. Why can't we enjoy the movies in the same fashion as everyone else? Why must we be limited to seeing open captioned movies that only show at certain theaters and certain times? In a way, it feels like we are prisoners to that right, to that privilege.

I, for one, would love to be able to go to the movies in Stowe with my family. I am unable to do that because they don't have any Open Caption movies. Instead I am limited to one Saturday morning a month whereas I cannot even attend. I have a job that conflicted with their showing. So I always have to wait until the movies come out on DVD. That just means more isolation from society. Does that seem right to you?

Thank you for your time!

Laura Siegel
Waterbury, Vermont