

Movie theaters, especially small locally owned theaters such as City Lights here in Florence, are an important part of the community in which they serve. Not only do they provide valuable entertainment and art, but they also serve as community gathering spots. A place to gather with friends and family, catch up on events, and share time together. Without financial help, many of these small local theaters will close, at great loss to their communities. SB 5555 should include funds for theaters. Some key points to consider:

- ? Unlike most other businesses, movie theaters experienced a total shutdown for nearly a year
- ? Movie theaters were not included in the \$25 million that went to live performance venues last year
- ? Movie theaters have largely been overlooked in the relief aid programs
- ? Movie theaters face a long road to recovery without new film product and with capacity restrictions. Even with greater capacity allowances (50% and above), theaters will still be limited to roughly 25% capacity due to 6' social distancing requirements
- ? Funds are desperately needed to help address fixed costs incurred while movie theaters were required to be closed
- ? Movie theaters have incurred costly capital expenses related to re-opening

I haven't been able to view a movie at our local theater since March of 2020. Since then, my husband and I have rented a few of the virtual offerings presented by City Lights here in Florence. We look forward to the time when we can view a movie again, in person, in the theater. We are hoping that will be soon, as more and more of us get vaccinated. Please help these theaters survive.

Thank you.