

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1

Submitted by: Xin Yuan

Testifying as Opponent

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and esteemed members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Xin Yuan, a resident of Delaware County. I've lived in Ohio for nearly ten years, and it is the place I proudly call home. I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 1 for three key reasons.

First, it unfairly targets lawful immigrants of Chinese origin—green card holders and H-1B visa holders—under the pretense of national security. Second, it promotes racial profiling and discriminates against Asian communities. Third, it hurts Ohio's economy and its reputation as a diverse, welcoming state.

I came to the U.S. 14 years ago for my Master's degree. After graduating, I got a job and stayed. I was on an H-1B visa for 10 years before finally receiving my green card. I've lived in four states, but only in Ohio did I feel truly settled—because it is where I bought my first home, and where I want to raise my family.

But under House Bill 1, I may lose my home. In central Ohio—including Delaware County—it's nearly impossible to find a home that isn't within 25 miles of a "protected property" like railways or water facilities. This bill could effectively ban people like me from owning property anywhere in the state. Despite being here legally, I'd be labeled as a "foreign adversary." It's deeply dehumanizing.

I love this community as much as my birthplace. Is it truly your intention to take our homes away and force us to leave?

In her sponsor testimony, Representative King said we must distinguish between foreign governments and people of similar heritage who are part of American life. I fully agree. But this bill fails that test. It fuels the false idea that Chinese people are enemies of this country.

I recently became a mother. How will I explain to my son that we're not welcome here—just because of where we come from? The idea that he could grow up surrounded by hate in his own country breaks my heart. That's why I'm here—not just as a resident, but as a mother.

This bill also hurts Ohio's economy. Chinese buyers purchased around 760 homes in Ohio in 2022¹. If this bill passes, Ohio could lose **\$181 million** in home sales, **\$3 million** in property tax revenue, and **\$56 million** in consumer spending²³⁴. And these figures don't even account for the deeper damage: families uprooted, and businesses suffered.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I invite you to attend the Columbus Asian Festival and see the joy and culture the Asian community brings to Ohio. Don't drive us out.

Please oppose House Bill 1. Property protection should be responsibly targeted—not used to punish lawful immigrants. Thank you for your time!

¹ <https://www.ohiorealtors.org/blog/1671/study-shows-impact-foreign-buyers-are-having-on-ohios-housing-market>

² <https://www.zillow.com/home-values/44/oh>

³ https://www.hrblock.com/tax-center/filing/states/ohio-property-tax/?srsltid=AfmBOoqg6nRHy7Kvvmu2tAMbaa5Egtw5cVHZ_15l4fT5k8fS5NbKHzfB&

⁴ https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/consumerexpenditures_selectedareas_table.htm?