

Christopher T. Malick

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Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and other honorable members of the House Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on House Bill 1.

I am an American citizen, born and raised in Ohio, married to the woman of my dreams—who happens to be Chinese. Because of House Bill 1, I worry for our future. I fear that I, someone born and raised in this country, will be unable to co-own a home with my wife simply because of her place of birth. I worry about the increased discrimination we will face, not because of anything she has done, but because of an immutable characteristic: that she was born Chinese.

Even if my wife were to become a U.S. citizen, she would still carry her Chinese name and appearance—traits that could continue to subject her to the suspicion and bias this bill would inflame. If I, an American citizen, am already experiencing these fears, I can only imagine what immigrants from the listed "adversary" countries must feel. These are people who came here legally, through extensive vetting, in search of opportunity and freedom—not to undermine our country, but to build better lives and contribute to their communities.

Many say the American Dream no longer exists. But for immigrants who've sacrificed everything to come here, it absolutely still does. They believe in the promise of America—and they often work harder than anyone to earn their place here.

I have voted Republican in every election I've been eligible to participate in. I share many values with the party and have supported it as a voice for individual liberty, opportunity, and fairness. But if this bill and others like it are what we can expect from our future, I will be deeply disheartened—and will have to reconsider who truly represents the people.

I love Ohio. I have never wanted to leave. But this bill will not make our state safer or stronger. It will drive out skilled workers, eliminate valuable economic contributions, and send a message to the world that Ohio is not a welcoming place. That would be a profound loss for all of us.

I also question the constitutionality of this bill. But beyond legal challenges, it sets a dangerous precedent. If we begin stripping rights from certain people based on national origin, who will be next? We've seen in history where that road leads. We must be vigilant not to repeat those mistakes.

House Bill 1 is not the answer. I respectfully urge you to oppose it—for the sake of fairness, community, and the future of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christopher T. Malick