

**Testimony Against H.B. 1**  
**Submitted by: Xiang Zhang**  
**Testifying as Opponent**

May 18, 2025

Xiang Zhang, Ph.D.  
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Chair Abrams, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Chinese name is Xiang Zhang. When I was young, I never saw my grandpa; my mom told me he died in a Concentration Camps in China. I never saw my uncle, my dad told me he committed suicide as he was unable to withstand torture during the Culture Revolution. My parents gave me a special Chinese name, they hoped that one day, I could spread wings like a bird, and fly to a land that has freedom, equality and justice.

You know what? Like a bird I flew to New York City, to Hong Kong, to Boston, and finally settled down in Ohio. I made it! I still remember when I first came to the United States in 1998, all I had was a \$100 bill and a suitcase.

I came to the United States with a dream. Because I know the Declaration of Independence was written, "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."; Because I know here Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream. He dreamed that people will only be judged by the content of their character. Not the color of their skin, not their nationality or race.

In 2012 it got my green card and became a US permanent resident. Now I am a Professor and a Core Facility Director in the University of Cincinnati. Independently and without financial support, I established one of the best equipped laboratories and one of the largest core facilities in UC for biomedical research. I bring million-dollar level of revenue to Ohio, and offer job positions in Ohio. I collaborate with over 400 doctors and scientists from different institutions nationwide to support their research and grant applications. I also train staff and students for Ohio's tomorrow. I am living in my American dream. I appreciate that the US provided me the freedom, equality and justice that nurtured my success. I am clear that without these shared common values, I won't be able to making these achievements.

Meanwhile, my wife and I bought a house in Ohio. It seems our American dream come true. I thought about that I would stand up to defend these shared values; I even thought about I would go to battlefield for these as I feel that I am still young. However, Ladies and Gentlemen, I never thought about that one day, I will have to stand here in front of you to defend myself solely because of my nationality. I never thought about that one day, I will lose my house in Ohio solely because of my nationality. Think about how many innocent families will be ruined by this Bill. It's so heartbreaking.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I came from China, but I am not a CCP, nor I support their policy. I understand your concern. However, this Bill mistakenly and broadly targeted people with foreign nationalities who legally work and pay tax like me. This Bill spreads panic, hatred and discrimination. This Bill will inevitably have a strong negative impact on many aspects in Ohio including research, education, and economy. This is why I feel compelled to drive 20 hours and one thousand miles in two days, and come back here to testify.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I respectfully urge you, to vote NO on HB1 and support that all residents in Ohio are fairly treated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Xiang Zhang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Xiang Zhang  
Professor and Director  
University of Cincinnati