

**Testimony Against House Bill 1**  
**Submitted by: Wing Keung Chan**

**Testifying as Opponent**

May 18, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against House Bill 1 (H.B. 1) today. My name is Wing Keung Chan and I am a biomedical scientist living and working here in Columbus Ohio. I came to the United States after completing my PhD at the University of Hong Kong to chase my American Dream, aiming to contribute to one of the world's most advanced research environments.

For over a decade, I have worked side by side with fellow scientists—Americans and immigrants alike—on diseases that affect all of us, regardless of where we come from. I have served as the scientific support to clinical trials, mentored students, collaborated across institutions, and helped advance research that saves lives. I have always believed in passing on my knowledge and skills to the next generation of scientists here in the U.S.—because science, at its heart, is about building something greater than ourselves.

HB1 and SB88, though perhaps not intended this way by all of its supporters, sends a deeply troubling message. It risks creating a climate of suspicion toward people like me—people who came here not as threats, but as contributors, as neighbors, and as educators.

Let me share some facts published in two reputable Scientific Journal *Science* and *PNAS*. As of 2019, over 16,000 Chinese American biological and life scientists were working in the U.S., representing around 7% of that workforce. Over 80% of them work in vital sectors: pharmaceuticals, research, healthcare, and universities. Chinese nationals also earn nearly 17% of all U.S. doctoral degrees in science and engineering fields—and a large majority of them intend to stay and serve this country's research ecosystem.

Yet we are seeing the damage of suspicion and potentially leading to xenophobia. Between 2010 and 2021, nearly 20,000 scientists of Chinese descent left the United States. In just 2021, more than 1,000 life scientists departed. These are not just statistics. These are lost minds, lost innovation, lost cures.

I have personally seen the impact of Chinese researchers in the labs and classrooms here in Ohio. They are developing cancer therapies, inventing medical devices, and mentoring the next generation of doctors and scientists. These are people who pay taxes, raise families, volunteer in their communities, and call this state their home.

But even more towards our fundamental rights, beyond the work, we all deserve a safe place to live. We deserve to walk our neighborhoods without fear, to send our children to school without suspicion, to work without the shadow of doubt simply because of where we were born. This bill,

whether intentional or not, risks fostering an environment of suspicion and racial discrimination, particularly towards individuals of Chinese descent and other Asian communities in Ohio.

Legislation like H.B.1 and SB88 does not protect our future—it jeopardizes it. It risks turning away the very people who help make Ohio a leader in research, innovation, and healthcare.

I urge you to reflect on the human impact and the far-reaching consequences of this bill. We cannot afford to lose the minds, hearts, and hands shaping the future of biomedical science—neither in Ohio nor across the nation. I respectfully ask the House Public Safety Committee to take my testimony into account and to vote **NO** on H.B. 1. Thank you again for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Wing

Wing Keung Chan, PhD