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May 17th 2025

**Re: Testimony Opposing Ohio House Bill 1**

**Dear House Public Safety Committee,**

My name is Anquan Wang, a China-born US citizen residing in Mason, OH. I have been employed by General Electric Company for 18 years and currently serve as GE Aerospace's Design Board 31 Technology Subcommittee Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to testify against House Bill 1 representing myself.

House Bill 1 is in the name of national security and public safety. Working in the aviation industry, I fully appreciate the importance of protecting our national security effectively. By the nature of my job, I handle sensitive information and technologies on a daily basis. I have first-hand experiences of foreign adversaries trying to steal our technologies and strengthen their defense capability. Threat is real and there is no question about it. House Bill 1 forbids foreign adversaries from owning properties within 25 miles from military bases and critical infrastructures. To me, 25 miles is not enough and does not solve the problem. We should keep out our adversaries entirely. When someone comes to your house harming you, you'd better shut the door.

Let me be clear. We need to counter real foreign adversaries, that is, specific foreign governments and individuals/organizations engaging in activities hurting our national security. We need to be laser-focused because the threat is real. But targeting ordinary people coming legally from foreign countries to study and work here is out of focus. Depriving their constitutional rights to acquire properties is completely wrong and nothing to do with national security. My niece came from China. She is pursuing her PhD in Tulane University on an F-1 visa. It is mind-boggling for me that my lovely niece, a 25 year old girl, now is a threat to national security, based on this bill! I just can't wrap my head around this concept. Should I invite her to Thanksgiving any more?

I'd like to share my personal story a little bit here. I came to the US on an F-1 visa in 2002 and was hired by GE's Global Research Center in NY's capital region after I finished my PhD study in 2007. In 2009, I was looking into purchasing a house since my wife finished her PhD and joined me along with my first child. I was on an H1-B visa back then. I had two other China-born colleagues who were in similar situations, with H1-B or F-1 OPT visa status looking for a house. Inspired by the "Groupon" concept, we went to a local developer, Amedore Homes, together trying to negotiate a group deal. The sales lady almost bursted into tears when hearing we were purchasing 3 homes. They had not signed a single contract in 6 months since the 2008 financial crisis. She called their president and the president asked for a meeting with us directly the next day. They could not afford losing our contracts which could keep the company afloat. It was a great meeting and the president gave us a handsome discount on price. I still remember he told

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us at the end of the meeting: “hey, only you immigrants are still buying in this kind of economic environment.” Guess what? He was right. After we built, except one house, all houses were built by immigrant families on our street. While President Obama was busy bailing out Big Three and banks too big to fail, we, a group of H1-B and F-1 visa holders, bailed out a local real estate company! I am not an economist, but I know the 2008 financial crisis won’t be the last one!

At the end of 2011, GE transferred me to Aviation’s headquarter in Evendale, OH. I purchased my second house, a built-for-market house from John Henry Homes. It has been my home since then. I was a green card holder back then. If there was a law like House Bill 1, I would not have been able to buy my previous and current houses. My family would have been stuck in rentals and constantly moving for many years! In that case, I surely would not have come to Ohio!

I don’t want to hide my feelings here. I felt discriminated against when I heard about House Bill 1 last week. It discriminates against legal immigrants based on their national origins, which no one can choose. Racism is in its core. And I am not alone. My colleague and neighbor, Dr. Li, a China-born US citizen as well, shared the same feeling when I told him about this bill on Thur. He said he would consider moving out from Ohio. Dr. Li has been working on military aircraft engine programs for more than 20 years. When experienced people like him start to leave, it is a great loss to our company. Not only twenty years of experience in our industry is worth tens of million dollars, it surely hurts our defense programs. From this perspective, House Bill 1 itself is a threat to our national security!

House Bill 1 is about racial profiling and fear mongering. It paints all foreign citizens of specific countries with a broad brush as threats to national security and public safety. If this is not racial profiling, I don’t know what racial profiling is! If this is not fear mongering, I don’t know what fear mongering is! It violates Ohio Constitution Article I Section 1 in broad daylight and should not have been introduced in the first place! Therefore, I sincerely urge this Committee to vote “no” on House Bill 1!

Thank you for your consideration.

**Anquan Wang, PhD**