

Lucy Hutchins

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 1

May 19, 2025

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 1.

My name is Lucy Hutchins. I am a Chinese immigrant. My husband is a U. S. citizen, and we met in China and got married there in 2008, and I became a U.S. citizen in 2014. For 6 years, I lived in the States as a foreigner. It took me 6 years to become a citizen. I know it took more than 10 years for many of my friends to become U.S. citizens because they came here through student visa or work visa. What this bill does is that it takes away the housing right for immigrants who are studying and working in this country with legal visas. When I was not a U.S. citizen, I was still paying taxes the same way as a citizen. Housing is a human right. All legal immigrants who are in the state should enjoy the same property right because we all have gone through the same Homeland Security process. We had our background checked before we were able to enter the United States.

We know our house determines our school district. If this bill pass, immigrant's children who are born in the States will be deprived of their equal opportunity for education and extracurricular because their parents are not allowed to purchase a house. This will also create more bully at school, which is not something our lawmaker would like to see.

HB 1 if pass, it will hurt Ohio's economy. City of Moraine has already submitted written opponent testimony on Senate Bill 88, which is a similar bill to HB 1. City manager explained that Fuyao Glass America (FGA) has created 3,000 jobs in Moraine. The tax revenue from FGA and its employees helps fund the local government, public school, and state. If FGA needs to be relocated to other state, Ohio will loss all the tax revenue from it and many Ohioans will lose their jobs. In addition, it may interrupt the supply chain for other US automobile manufactories.

Furthermore, HB 1 is discriminatory, and it violates the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination based on national origin. HB 1 conflicts with federal law, as Congress has already established a system for reviewing foreign investments in real estate. This bill if pass may result in Ohio with lawsuit as we saw that is what happening in Florida. I hope our Public Safety committee can learn from other states.

In closing, House Bill 1 is a step backward for Ohio. It undermines the state's economic vitality, weakens our housing market, and risks violating federal civil rights law. Instead of

restricting housing development, Ohio should invest in policies that promote housing choice, affordability, and inclusive growth.

I respectfully urge this committee to vote NO on HB 1 and instead pursue legislation that supports economic opportunity and fair housing for all Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration!