

Testimony Against House Bill 1

Submitted by: Guang Sheng

Testifying as Opponent

May 20, 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. My name is Guang Sheng, and I am a US permanent resident living in Westerville, Ohio. I am also an R&D leader at Owens Corning Science and Technology in Granville, Ohio.

I respectfully urge the House Public Safety Committee to consider my testimony and to vote NO on H.B. 1.

I earned my Ph.D. from Penn State and moved to Ohio in 2011 to start my professional career as a materials scientist. Over the years, I have had the privilege of contributing to the state's innovation and technological advancements through my work at three different Ohio companies. My latest role involves leading a global team with members from different countries, genders, and races. Together, we have created value for the company by innovating lightweight, energy-saving, and environmentally friendly building materials solutions for the well-being of Ohioans. Our innovations include shingles on many of our homes, insulation that keeps our homes warm, and composite lumber/decks in your backyard to save Ohio trees.

As an immigrant, I have personally experienced the value of programs that promote diversity and inclusion in creating a supportive and innovative environment. These initiatives have not only fostered a sense of belonging but have also led to groundbreaking advancements by bringing together diverse perspectives. I lead the Asian Culture Affinity Group at Owens Corning, which fosters multicultural learning among employees. Without this support, I might not have been able to achieve the same level of success and contribute as effectively to my team and the broader community.

Additionally, my wife and I have two daughters, aged 8 and 12, both born in Columbus. They see themselves as Ohioans and proudly support the Buckeyes during Ohio State vs. Penn State games. If this bill passes, I and many permanent resident homeowners would need to be selling our homes and leaving Ohio. The community would decline, and scientists and engineers with foreign backgrounds like me would be deterred from coming to Ohio, leading to a loss of talent and innovation.

House Bill 1 could have far-reaching negative impacts on our community and economy. We risk losing the unique contributions of individuals from diverse backgrounds, which are essential for fostering innovation and maintaining Ohio's competitive edge. Moreover, H.B. 1's strict measure is not only discriminatory but also detrimental to the state's economic growth and community development. It sends a message that Ohio is not welcoming to foreign talent, which could deter highly skilled professionals from coming to innovative companies in Ohio.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the House Public Safety Committee to consider my testimony and to vote NO on H.B. 1.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Guang Sheng