

Submitted by: Feng Qin

Organization: (As an individual)

Testifying as Opponent

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

First, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to share my personal experiences relevant to House Bill 1 (HB1). As an Ohioan, I have serious concerns about and oppose House Bill 1.

My name is Feng Qin, a Professor and Associate Department Chair at The Ohio State University. After earning my Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2006, I joined The Ohio State University (OSU) as a tenure-track faculty member and have remained in Ohio since. Like many talented legal immigrants, I worked under the H1-B visa, purchased a home, and received my U.S. permanent resident status. My two children were born as Buckeye babies at the OSU Medical Center. My wife and I raise them together in our current house and friendly neighborhood. Now, one of them is going to attend college, and the other is joining middle school soon. My family has been proud Ohioans throughout.

During my nearly 20-year career and time in Ohio, I have contributed to Ohio's higher education by teaching over 1,000 college students, training numerous graduate students, leading various research innovations, and serving the community. I am proud to be a Buckeye.

I oppose House Bill 1 because it would ban legal immigrants from certain countries, like myself, from purchasing homes in nearly all Ohio metropolitan areas. Ohio was very attractive to me then, and it remains very attractive to many talented legal immigrants now, as it offers an open and welcoming environment to both domestic and international talents. Every year, OSU files hundreds of H1-B working visas, and Columbus, Ohio files thousands of H1-B working visas for talented immigrants. I am seriously concerned that House Bill 1 will tarnish Ohio's reputation internationally and severely impact Ohio's economy in the long term.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony!