

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1

Submitted by: Yuechi Xu

Testifying as: Opponent

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Higher Education Committee,

My name is Yuechi Xu, and I reside in Powell, Ohio. I am writing today as a concerned citizen to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1.

House Bill 1 unfairly targets immigrant communities under the pretense of national security. It echoes the discriminatory legacy of Alien Land Laws—measures that have been ruled unconstitutional and historically used to marginalize Asian, Muslim, and other immigrant populations in the United States.

By restricting land ownership based on nationality, this bill promotes racial profiling and creates a chilling effect that discourages immigrants from living, working, and investing in Ohio. These measures not only erode civil liberties but also harm our state's economy by alienating contributors who bring innovation, entrepreneurship, and diversity to our communities.

Several Southern states have recently enacted similar legislation, but we must be cautious not to follow examples rooted in outdated and exclusionary ideologies. Ohio has an opportunity to lead—not regress—by affirming its commitment to fairness, equality, and inclusivity.

I urge you to vote **NO** on House Bill 1. Let us ensure that Ohio remains a welcoming and just home for all its residents, regardless of their national origin.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yuechi Xu

Powell, Ohio