

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Yiwei Sun, and I am a Chinese resident living in Dayton. I am proud to call Ohio my home, and I care deeply about the future of this state and its public institutions. I moved to Ohio together with my family when I moved my work here. My son currently is attending school at Oakwood. We really enjoyed the life here so far with the tolerance and diversity culture provided here.

I am here to speak in strong opposition to Senate Bill 88 and House Bill 1.

As someone who has lived under a government that limits free expression and tightly controls what can be taught and discussed, I recognize the warning signs in these bills. SB88, which seeks to restrict classroom discussion and dictate how topics like race, gender, and social justice are addressed, reminds me of the kind of censorship I thought I had left behind.

In China, we are taught not to question. History is edited. Critical voices are silenced. I came to the United States because I believed in freedom—especially the freedom to learn, to speak, and to think openly. Bills like SB88 contradict those values. They push fear into the classroom and discourage open, honest education.

HB1, meanwhile, threatens public school funding by diverting money away from local communities, especially those that need it most. For many immigrant families like mine, public education is the key to opportunity. Weakening that system hurts the very people who are working hard to build better lives and contribute to society.

Together, these two bills send a message that only certain perspectives are welcome, that diversity is a problem, and that learning must be controlled. That is not the Ohio I know, and it is not the future we should create.

I urge you to reject SB88 and HB1. Let Ohio remain a place where freedom of thought is protected, where education is respected, and where all people—regardless of where they come from—are treated with dignity and fairness.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

Yiwei Sun

Chinese Resident of Columbus, Ohio