

Testimony Against H.B. 1

Submitted by: Feng Jiang

Testifying as Opponent

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Feng Jiang

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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. I am Feng Jiang, a resident in Aurora and a Senior Manager Software Development at CommuteAir.

I have lived in Ohio for nine years and believe that Ohio thrives on the support, contributions, and diversity of its residents, regardless of their country of origin.

I'm strongly against both HB1 and SB88 (a similar but more stringent law that forces Green Card holders to sell houses they own now within two years) on the following grounds:

1. They violate constitutional protections. The bills are likely to contravene the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Supremacy Clause, which prohibits states from enacting laws that conflict with federal immigration and foreign policy. Barring individuals from owning property based on their nationality or immigration status undermines the very foundation of American constitutional democracy.
2. They violate the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act of 1968, a cornerstone of civil rights legislation, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing based on national origin, race, or ethnicity. HB1 and SB88 open the door to discrimination not only against foreign nationals but also against U.S. citizens and lawful residents of Asian descents and immigrants from other countries. Such legislation risks encouraging housing providers and financial institutions to engage in profiling and exclusion—undermining decades of progress toward fair and equal access to housing.
3. They promote racial profiling and xenophobia. By singling out individuals based on national origin, these bills inflame racialized suspicion and encourage discrimination—not just against foreign nationals, but also against American citizens and permanent residents of Asian and immigrant backgrounds.

4. They harm Ohio's economy and global reputation. International students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and workers contribute billions of dollars to Ohio's institutions and industries. These bills send the wrong message to global talent and foreign investors who see Ohio as a welcoming place to study, build, and innovate.

5. They erode social cohesion and public trust. In times of division, scapegoating immigrants and communities of color distracts from real policy challenges. These bills fracture our communities and compromise the values of fairness, inclusion, and opportunity that Ohioans hold dear.

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,

Feng Jiang