

Testimony Against H.B. 1
Submitted by: Chunyan Su
Testifying as Opponent

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Chunyan Su
3314 Gilbert Dr.
Mason OH 45040

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 Chunyan Su, a Mason resident and I am a risk manager at a national bank.

I came to the United States in 2008 as an international student. I was only 20 years old and I still remember how thrilled I was to be in America when the plane landed. America was founded upon the core principles—**equality, liberty, and individual freedom**. Everytime I read the poem ‘The New Colossus’ I’m in tears. “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

Now I’m 37 years old, married and have two kids. 17 years have gone by really fast and everyday I’m more and more attached to the US, Ohio, Mason. I especially love the diversity here where people from different backgrounds and nations come together and build this community we have. I have encountered people who are kind, open-minded, and generous—that made me feel this could be home—not just a place to live, but a place to belong, not only myself, but also my children.

That is why HB 1 is so heartbreaking. It threatens to turn people like me—who are here legally, peacefully, and with a desire to contribute—into second-class residents. I can’t imagine if the bill is passed and if we’ll have to move, how would I explain to my kids about the situation that we are pushed to leave our home and they’d have to say goodbye to their friends. It breaks my heart and their hearts to realize the fact that we’re not truly welcome, not because of anything we’ve done, but simply because of where we were born.

It is important to avoid conflating the actions of the Chinese government with those of Chinese nationals residing or working in the U.S. I know firsthand that the Chinese community in Ohio is full of hardworking law-abiding families, students, researchers, and professionals. We contribute to the economy, volunteer in our communities, and support local businesses.

HB1 stands in direct opposition to the core principles upon which this country was founded—**equality, liberty, and individual freedom to Pursue one’s dreams**. I can’t foresee the future. I can’t predict what the next 17 years will bring. But what I really hope for—what I truly

dream of— is to see my children grow happy and thriving in Ohio, the place we call home. I imagine growing old with my husband here in Ohio, watching our children chase their dreams, just like I did when I first arrived in the U.S. in 2008 as a 20 year old girl full of hope and ambition. Ohio became more than just a state; it became the heart of my life's story, the place where our family grew, where love flourished, and where we built a future.

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,

Chunyan