

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1

Submitted by: Lin Cai

Testifying as Opponent

May 16th, 2025

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

My name is Lin Cai, I live in the Dayton area. I am a concerned resident, and I am asking this committee to oppose House Bill 1 which unfairly targets immigrant communities under the pretense of national security.

When I talked about House Bill 1 with my son. The first sentence came out from his mouth is "No fair. This is discrimination". Then he asked me how he could finish his high school studies. I responded, "You probably could not. In two years time, we would have to sell our house and move to another state. He, like me and every Ohioan impacted by this bill, is upset, frustrated and angry. Every parent wants their child to be healthy and happy. Without any doubt, House Bill 1 is spreading the theme of discrimination into childrens' hearts, hurting their feelings, and impacting their mental health.

Since we have been working and living here for 15 years, we love Ohio, the Great Dayton area, our school, and our neighborhood. We work incredibly hard to contribute to the state of Ohio. However, if House Bill 1 is passed, we will be expelled and forced to leave the people we love. What did we do wrong? Nothing! We have been treated unjustly because of our nationality. We feel betrayed by the community we once trusted and by the ones that welcomed us.

H.B. 1 revives the discriminatory history of the Alien Land Laws, which have been ruled unconstitutional and have long been used to suppress Asian, Muslim and immigrant communities.

By restricting land ownership based on nationality, H.B. 1 fosters racial profiling and discourages immigrants from contributing to Ohio's economy. Furthermore, they may violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, opening the state to costly litigation.

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1 to ensure Ohio remains a welcoming state for all its residents. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lin Cai