

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1

Submitted by: Yuxiong Huang

Testifying as an Opponent

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Yuxiong Huang, and I reside in Mason, Ohio. I am a proud U.S. citizen, an immigrant, and a deeply concerned constituent. I urge you to oppose House Bill 1, which, under the guise of national security, unfairly targets immigrant communities and threatens the civil rights of many Ohio residents.

This bill echoes the shameful legacy of **Alien Land Laws**, which have been repeatedly struck down as unconstitutional. These laws were historically used to discriminate against Asian, Muslim, and other immigrant communities. HB 1 revives this harmful precedent, undermining the principles of equality and justice that are foundational to our democracy.

Constitutional Violations

House Bill 1 likely violates the **Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment** and the **Supremacy Clause** of the U.S. Constitution. States may not enact legislation that conflicts with federal immigration or foreign policy. Banning individuals from property ownership based solely on national origin or immigration status is discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Violates the Fair Housing Act

The **Fair Housing Act of 1968** prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, ethnicity, and national origin. HB 1 and its Senate counterpart, SB 88, risk enabling racial and national origin-based profiling—not only against foreign nationals but also against naturalized U.S. citizens, legal residents, and immigrants from Asian and other marginalized communities. This opens the door to unfair lending practices, housing denials, and systemic exclusion.

Promotes Racial Profiling and Xenophobia

By singling out individuals based on their country of origin, HB 1 fuels fear, racial suspicion, and xenophobia. It sends a chilling message to immigrant communities—many of whom are hardworking, law-abiding residents and American citizens—that they are forever viewed as threats or outsiders.

Harms Ohio's Economy and Reputation

International students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers contribute billions to Ohio's economy. This bill will deter foreign investment, discourage

international talent from settling here, and damage Ohio's reputation as an inclusive, forward-looking state.

Undermines Social Cohesion

Instead of uniting communities, bills like HB 1 foster division and mistrust. Scapegoating immigrants for security concerns distracts from real policy solutions and erodes the values of fairness, inclusion, and opportunity that Ohioans hold dear.

In conclusion, HB 1 would encourage racial profiling, violate civil rights, suppress economic growth, and expose Ohio to potential litigation. More importantly, it threatens the very ideals that make our state and nation strong.

I respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on House Bill 1. Let us ensure that Ohio remains a place of opportunity, fairness, and welcome for all its residents—regardless of where they were born.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
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