

Testimony Against H.B. 1
Submitted by: Bo Zhan
Testifying as an Opponent

May 18, 2025

Dear Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing as a concerned United States citizen and an Ohio resident regarding House Bill 1 (HB1), which seeks to restrict foreign ownership of real property in our state.

While I understand the importance of protecting our critical infrastructure, I urge you to reconsider the potential negative impact of this bill.

Thirty some years ago, I came to the United States from China as a graduate student. After graduation, I began working for companies in Ohio, contributing to their growth and success. Over time, I embraced the opportunities this country provided and proudly became a United States citizen. I sincerely thank the state for allowing me to play a part in the economic development of Ohio.

House Bill 1 (HB1), if it becomes law in Ohio, would prevent immigrants like me who arrived thirty some years ago from living and raising a family in our state after obtaining their college degrees. This would, in turn, prevent them from working for companies and organizations in Ohio, negatively impacting our state's growth both economically and socially.

Property ownership is a foundational part of the American Dream. It is a matter of great pride for us to demonstrate to the world that America offers exceptional opportunities for individuals from around the globe. By coming to the United States, they can join American citizens in pursuing the American Dream, working diligently, and contributing significantly to the economic and social development of our communities.

My journey is not unique. Numerous immigrants have similar stories of arriving in the United States, pursuing higher education, and contributing to various sectors such as healthcare, technology, and education. Their involvement not only fills critical labor gaps but also brings diverse perspectives and innovation to our industries.

In closing, I respectfully request the committee to weigh these factors carefully and consider either dropping this bill, or, revising the bill to strike a balance between security and economic prosperity for Ohio.

Sincerely,

Bo Zhan