

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1
Submitted by: Hong Qiu
Organization: Asian American Coalition of Ohio
Testifying as Opponent

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

My name is Hong Qiu. I live in Dublin, Ohio, and I serve as a board member of the Asian American Coalition of Ohio.

Over 30 years ago, I came to the United States to pursue graduate studies at The Ohio State University. After earning a Ph.D. in Chemistry and my husband a Master's degree in Computer Science, we made Ohio our home and raised our family here. Owning a home gave our children a sense of stability and belonging—values that reflect the American dream. Since becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen, I have never missed an election, because I believe deeply in the responsibilities of democratic participation.

I am deeply alarmed by the proposed House Bill 1. This bill, which seeks to ban certain foreign nationals from owning property in Ohio, is rooted in the same discriminatory thinking as the shameful Alien Land Laws of a century ago. It singles out individuals based solely on national origin under the pretense of national security. This is not only unjust—it is unconstitutional.

HB1 will undermine Ohio's economy by deterring lawful investment from immigrants who contribute to our communities and industries. It sends a dangerous message: that people from certain countries, regardless of their character or commitment to this nation, are not welcome here. This bill is a direct attack on fairness, civil rights, and the values we claim to uphold.

I strongly urge you to vote **NO** on House Bill 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.