

## Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1

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**Chairman Abram Vice-Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and Honorable Members of the House Public Safety Committee:**

Thank you for accepting this written testimony for the record on House Bill 1. I submit these comments with deep respect for your service and with urgent concern for the bill's impact on my students, my family, and the future of Ohio.

I write to you today not just as a teacher, but as a mother who begins each day at 5:30 a.m. to greet students at a Title I high-need urban high school, the words "liberty and justice for all" from the morning pledge still ringing in my ears. After the final bell, I hurry to cheer my son—recently promoted to his varsity tennis team—then drive my daughter to her gymnastics try-out, where she hopes one day to compete for Ohio. Each night ends with a storybook called *All Are Welcome*, whose cover shows seven smiling children of different skin tones and features. Lately, when I turn that page, my hand trembles. Is the promise in that title still true? Will my children's future be defined by their effort, or by the way their last name sounds?

House Bill 1 fails to distinguish between foreign governments and ordinary, law-abiding people who live and work here under lawful status—permanent residents with green cards, employees on H-1B or L-1 visas, even international students on F-1 visas. Senate Bill 88 goes even further require property owners from the listed countries to sell their homes within 2 years. Our Constitution guarantees equal protection and the right to acquire property; this bill would fracture our community and leave an irreversible scar on Ohio's economy, research breakthroughs, and reputation for attracting top talent. Once word spreads that Ohio is unwelcome—even to those **not** listed in the bill—entrepreneurs, engineers, researchers, and restaurant owners will simply take their ingenuity elsewhere, and our Asian-American students and coworkers will feel less safe in the very place they call home.

I therefore ask the Committee, with respect and urgency, to vote **No** on House Bill 1—or at minimum to adopt these amendments:

1. **Remove all statements that bar individuals from purchasing either primary residences or investment properties.** If we welcome their taxes and labor, we must allow them to invest in the communities they strengthen.
2. **Explicitly exempt permanent residents, work-visa holders, and international students.** Under the bill's current wording, a green-card holder who has lived in Ohio for decades would be grouped with foreign adversaries—a result neither just nor sensible.

3. **Affirm the right of hardworking, law-abiding immigrants to own property as a path to stability and contribution**, consistent with both Ohio's economic goals and America's foundational ideals.

As an educator who familiar with the history of the Alien Land Laws and the Chinese Exclusion Act, I implore you to stand on the right side of history. Say *No* to House Bill 1, and *Yes* to the Ohio that welcomes everyone who believes that, here, all are truly welcome.

Thank you for your time and consideration.