

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

May 19, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against House Bill 1. I am Shenghe Zhan, a resident of the city of Mason, a believer of Jesus Christ, and a senior software engineering management professional.

I came to study mathematics in the University of Cincinnati in 1994 from China with a full scholarship and earned my PhD degree in mathematics in 1998. I have worked as a software engineering professional since my graduation. My immigration status was changed from F1 visa to H1B. My wife and I purchased our current house in 2001 when I had a H1B visa. We raised our five lovely children, who were all born in Cincinnati, in this sweet home. We are deeply grateful for this country and the state of Ohio giving us the opportunity to pursue a dream of liberty, happiness and hope in this land. Later my wife and I became permanent residents and then citizens of this country. I have been working with wonderful fellow American colleagues to advance software to solve business problems for our companies here in the United States.

On the first Sunday after I arrived in July 1994, a friend of mine took me to Cincinnati Chinese Church even though my friend himself was not a believer at that time. That was my first time ever entering a church. Not long after, I became a firm believer of Christ and started serving other people like myself in various ministries of my church. Through the ministries, I witnessed hundreds of people like myself come to the faith of Christ. I thank our Lord who truly is the savior of all nations regardless of races and origins. Christ gives His believers true liberty, happiness and hope when they imitate His life. When I have fellowship with American colleagues, I experience the same closeness and joy as I have fellowship with believers elsewhere in China, in South America or in Europe. I have not encountered a single person, who came here to study or work legally, posted any threat to this country.

I am sorry that my mother country, China, has been listed as one of the foreign adversaries by the Department of State. I understand that there are tensions between the two governments. Yet many of the people in China, especially the ones who come here with student or working visas, do not view the United States as an adversary but a land with dream pursuers. Many of the people in the United States, especially the ones who have close relationships with Chinese people, like many of my colleagues, do not view people from China as enemies but friends.

I oppose House Bill 1 for these two reasons:

First, the bill will simply crush many legal immigrants' dream - a dream to own a sweet home residence like what my wife and I did twenty five years ago. They will be the victims of this bill and they are very innocent. This bill will also make people doubt if the United States is a country that allows the genuine dream pursuers to come here to pursue liberty, happiness and hope.

Secondly, the act of this bill will make many people hostile to the government. In the book of Romans in the New Testament, verse three of chapter thirteen says "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad". This bill will make many legal Chinese immigrants, who are genuine dream pursuers like regular Americans, afraid. Their fear will likely become hostility. The act of this bill will not solve the tensions between the two governments. The most effective way to solve the tensions is to apply Jesus' teaching on resolving hostile relationships in book of Matthew chapter five verse forty four in the New Testament "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". I have a dream that one day China's leader will proclaim that Christ is the Savior of all nations like the leader of the United States. And on the day, the two countries will not call each other an adversary and the people in both countries call each other brothers in Christ.

I respectfully urge the House Public Safety Committee to consider my testimony and to vote NO on House Bill 1. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shenghe Zhan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Shenghe Zhan