

HB 1 opposition

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the Higher Education Committee

My name is Derrick Smith. I am a resident of Upper Arlington.

I have served as a licensed real estate agent in the state of Ohio for the last 5 years, helping over 120 families and individuals find homes. Many of which are legal residents in America, yet were born in another country. House Bill 1 negatively impacts and lays the foundation of discrimination that could adversely affect our neighbors.

I am asking this committee to oppose House Bill 1 which would make it unlawful for certain individuals to purchase property, and unfairly targets immigrant communities under the pretense of national security. House Bill 1 protects no one and weakens us all. House Bill 1 discourages those seeking to move to Ohio for a better life, which in turn strengthens the communities we live in. House Bill 1 closes Ohio to a world of investment and education opportunities, robbing Ohio of amazing humans that inject millions of dollars into Ohio's economy, not to mention the research breakthroughs made possible through some of the world's best and brightest minds studying at our incredible state universities.

I see House Bill 1 in direct violation of existing Fair Housing Laws. Legislation like House Bill 1 revives the discriminatory history of Alien Land Laws.

In closing, I'd like you to consider how defending House Bill 1 in the courts will become costly to Ohio and its taxpayers, protecting another unconstitutional bill. Ohio will once again bear the financial burden for the ineptness and fear mongering of some of the members of its legislature.

We are better than this. Vote No on House Bill 1.

Thank you!

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