

**Testimony Against Sub. H.B. 1**  
**Submitted by: Shouan Zhu, Testifying as Opponent**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Substitute House Bill 1. My name is Shouan Zhu, and I live in Athens, Ohio with my family.

I want to speak not only as an Ohio resident, but also as a husband and a father. My wife and I are lawful permanent residents, and our two children are U.S. citizens. So technically, my own family may not be the primary target of this bill. But that does not make this bill fair, reasonable, or acceptable. In my view, it is still discriminatory, and that is exactly why I feel compelled to speak against it.

This bill sends a troubling message that people can be judged not by their character, their work, or their contributions to this state, but by where they come from. That is wrong. Many immigrants in Ohio are students, researchers, physicians, engineers, workers, and small business owners. They are our neighbors, colleagues, and friends. They follow the law, raise families here, and contribute to the economic and social fabric of this state.

I am especially troubled that this bill would impose sweeping property restrictions tied to nationality and to an extremely broad definition of protected locations. That kind of approach is not narrowly tailored, and it opens the door to unfair treatment of law-abiding people who pose no threat to this country or this state.

Even though my own household may be exempt under parts of this legislation, I cannot accept a law that singles out other immigrant families and tells them they are less worthy of trust, stability, and opportunity. A bill does not become less discriminatory simply because it excludes some of us from the harm. It is still discriminatory in principle, and it is still harmful in practice.

This bill also risks damaging Ohio's future. It tells talented people from around the world that they may be welcome to work here, study here, and contribute here — but not fully belong here. That is not the message Ohio should send.

If there are real national security concerns, they should be addressed through evidence-based, targeted measures. They should not be addressed through broad restrictions that cast suspicion on entire groups of people.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote no on Substitute House Bill 1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shouan Zhu,

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