Testimony Against the Substitute H.B. 1
Submitted by: 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 the substitute bill for House Bill 1 accepted by the committee on November 19, 2025. My name is Julian Wang. **I respectfully urge you to oppose the HB 1 sub bill** due to serious legal, economic, and civil rights concerns it raises.

HB1 threatens to strip property rights from individuals and businesses based solely on national origin, while failing to meaningfully address national security as it claims. Specifically, the bill:

- Harm Ohio's workers, families, and businesses
- Weaken Ohio's economy and competitiveness
- Violate the U.S. Constitution and the Fair Housing Act

Although framed as measures to enhance Ohio's security, these bills would not meaningfully strengthen Ohio's safety. Instead, they would punish law-abiding residents who are legally present in the United States, harm Ohio's reputation as a fair and business-friendly state and undermine the constitutional and economic principles that have long fueled our success.

It's important to understand that the people targeted by HB1 are not strangers to our government. They are here legally, with visas issued by the federal government after an extensive, multi-agency screening process. The bill simply punishes those who have complied with every legal requirement and who now call Ohio home.

The bills' definition of "critical infrastructure" includes telecommunications lines, power grids, water and sewer systems, television and radio facilities, and fiber-optic networks. By imposing a 25-mile exclusion zone around these facilities, large portions of Ohio's populated regions would become off-limits to lawful residents and businesses. Even the reduced 10-mile radius in the latest HB1 sub-bill would still bar law-abiding individuals and enterprises from much of the state unless the definition of "critical infrastructure" is corrected—an unprecedented level of government overreach. This would drastically discourage investment, restrict workforce mobility, and penalize families who want to live and work in our state.

HB1 raises significant constitutional and statutory concerns. They conflict with the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the U.S. Constitution, as well as multiple provisions of the Ohio Constitution that safeguard individual rights and limit state power. In addition, the federal Fair Housing Act expressly prohibits discrimination based on

national origin and bars sellers and agents from inquiring into a person's citizenship or ethnic background during any housing transaction.

At a time when Ohio is working hard to attract advanced manufacturing, international investment, and global partnerships, HB1 runs directly counter to those efforts. Many of the individuals and companies that would be affected by these bills are already vital contributors to our economy—they own small businesses, employ Ohioans, pay taxes, and strengthen local communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to reject this legislation and instead focus on the issues that truly matter to Ohioans—such as reducing grocery costs, strengthening healthcare access, and supporting our state's economic future.

For these reasons, **I respectfully urge you to vote NO on Substitute HB 1**. Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.