

OPPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 88-Ohio Property Protection Act

BOLI WANG

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairwoman Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and other honorable members of the Senate General Government Committee,

My name is Boli Wang, I am a permanent resident of United States who holds Chinese citizenship. I am also a licensed CPA in the state of Ohio. Today, I am writing to you not as a CPA, but as a mother to 3 Chinese Americans.

When I was drafting this testimony, I told my six-year-old son—who was born and raised in Columbus—that I couldn't read him a bedtime story tonight because I had something very important to do. He asked me what it was. I couldn't explain exactly what a "Foreign Adversary" is, so I simply told him that some people think Chinese people are bad and don't want us to live here anymore. He was confused and asked, "But Mommy, you and Daddy, Grandpa and Grandma, and Nai Nai (paternal grandmother) aren't bad people."

Today, I am not only to protest the unjust treatment of ordinary people from so-called foreign adversary countries as outlined in House Bill 1, but also to fight for the rights of my children and the next generation of Asian Americans, or more specifically, Chinese Americans.

My children were born and raised in the United States. They are U.S. citizens with U.S. passports. Yet, they may be treated differently because of their parents' country of origin, because of their yellow skin. The provisions of House Bill 1 undoubtedly make this possibility even greater.

In the 1980s, Japanese cars began to sell successfully around the world, impacting American auto brands. On June 19, 1982, a Chinese American named Vincent Chin was brutally beaten to death in Detroit. The assailants, who worked for American car companies, mistakenly believed he was Japanese and decided to take out their anger toward Japanese companies on an innocent Chinese American man.

Now, House Bill 1, with its targeting of citizens from so-called foreign adversary nations, will only further deepen the misunderstanding, hostility, and hatred toward Chinese Americans by other ethnic groups. My children will grow up confused—why are their parents seen as bad people? Why can't their parents buy property, live, or invest in Ohio like other parents?

Yes, we are Chinese citizens, but we are also people who have immigrated to the U.S.

legally. We are just like you. We are parents picking up our kids at the school bus stop, neighbors passing each other while mowing the lawn, fans cheering for the Buckeyes in Ohio Stadium, residents bringing sweets to the police and fire departments at Christmas, friends greeting each other while walking dogs. We are ordinary people living in Ohio, just like you.

So, ladies and gentlemen, members of the committee, I sincerely urge you—do not misuse “national security” as an excuse. Do not abuse your power to target people like us, who are just ordinary residents like you. America is a country full of opportunities and dreams. As immigrants, we came here to build our families and hope our children can thrive in the home we’ve built for them.

I sincerely urge you not to pass this bill, because it would destroy the future of my children and strip them of the rights enjoyed by other American citizens of different backgrounds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Boli Wang, CPA