

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Na Wen

Testifying as Opponent

May 23, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts today. My name is Na Wen, and I live in Columbus, Ohio. I am an H-4 visa holder and have lived in Columbus for 6 years. I am also the mother of a wonderful 3.5-year-old daughter. Ohio has become our home, and I am deeply invested in the future of this community—not just for myself but for my child's future as well.

I oppose Senate Bill 88 because it unfairly silences legal residents like me, who contribute to our communities and care about the decisions that shape our everyday lives. Though I cannot vote, I want to be able to support or oppose ballot measures that affect my family, our schools, and our neighborhoods. This bill would take away even that small but important voice.

First, Senate Bill 88 sends a message that some residents' voices don't matter, simply because of their immigration status. That is not only unfair—it's harmful. Civic participation is essential to building a strong, inclusive community. If a policy impacts my family's life, I believe I should be allowed to stand up for what I believe in, peacefully and lawfully.

Second, this bill raises serious concerns about free speech rights. Political contributions are a protected form of expression, and legal residents like myself are not foreign entities trying to interfere in our elections. We are part of this community, paying taxes, raising families, and living here fully. Silencing us weakens democracy and discourages engagement.

I respectfully urge this committee to hear my testimony and vote NO on Senate Bill 88. Ohio's strength comes from its diversity and inclusion—let's keep it that way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Na Wen

Columbus, Ohio