

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by Lili Ma
Testifying as Opponent

May 24, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against Senate Bill 88. My name is Lili Ma, and I am a Mason resident and a professor at Northern Kentucky University. I came to the United States in 2002 as an international student on an F-1 visa, earned my Ph.D. in chemistry from Brown University, and have since dedicated my career to education and research.

I strongly oppose S.B. 88 because it unfairly targets individuals based on nationality, undermining the values of fairness and inclusion that have shaped my journey in this country. Throughout my 16 years as a professor, I have worked alongside diverse students and colleagues, many of whom have contributed significantly to Ohio's economy and academic excellence. Restricting opportunities based solely on origin weakens the very foundation that allows Ohio to attract global talent.

Furthermore, this bill threatens Ohio's reputation and economic standing. Policies that discourage international professionals, students, and investors from settling here will have long-term consequences, reducing innovation and economic growth. Many members of the Chinese community, including researchers, healthcare workers, and business owners, play a vital role in advancing the state. Excluding them from property ownership sends a harmful message that Ohio does not welcome diversity.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on S.B. 88 and consider more constructive solutions that enhance security without isolating valuable members of our society. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lili Ma

Mason, OH