

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee,

My name is Wei Xiong, and I am here today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88 (SB88).

What makes this country truly exceptional are the contributions of generations of immigrants over the past 250 years. Immigrants are not outsiders—they are the very soul of America. I came to the United States in 2006 from China as an international student, earned my master's degree in chemistry and materials engineering, and later worked for ten years in the tech industry. In 2014, I became a lawful permanent resident (green card), and in 2019, I proudly became a U.S. citizen.

Eventually, I transitioned to a full-time career in real estate. Over the past 7 to 8 years, I've had the privilege of helping more than 500 Chinese families buy homes in Ohio. These families are hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying residents. They cherish their lives here, pursue the American dream, and contribute to the strength and diversity of our communities.

Through my work and my life, I've witnessed how much immigrants contribute—not just economically, but culturally and socially. International students, researchers, and professionals generate billions of dollars for Ohio's institutions and industries. Their presence drives innovation and economic vitality. However, SB88 sends a chilling message to global talent and immigrant communities—that Ohio may not welcome them after all.

We all believe in the American Dream. But if SB88 becomes law, it will unfairly target individuals based solely on their nationality—not only foreign nationals, but also permanent residents and even U.S. citizens of Asian and immigrant backgrounds. Imagine being told you can't buy a home simply because of where you were born. That's not just discriminatory—it's un-American.

This bill, by tying property ownership to nationality, fosters racial profiling and discourages immigrants from continuing to contribute to Ohio's future. That is not the Ohio we know, and certainly not the Ohio we want to become.

Our founding fathers declared that “all men are created equal.” Let's live up to that promise by ensuring that all people—regardless of race, background, or country of origin—are treated equally under the law. Let's keep Ohio a place where everyone can pursue their dreams and call it home.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on SB88.

Sincerely,
Wei Xiong