

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: (Xuan Pu)
Testifying as Opponent

May 24, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on **Senate Bill 88 (SB 88)**.

My name is **Xuan Pu**, and I am a resident of **Mayfield Heights, Ohio**. I moved to Cleveland in 2019 after graduating from the University of Minnesota to begin my career at the Cleveland Clinic. Before becoming a homeowner, I moved frequently—almost every year—from one apartment to another. Being able to purchase a home allowed me to truly settle down and laid the foundation for starting a family here in Ohio.

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to **Senate Bill 88**.

This bill restricts individuals from owning property within 25 miles of a military base or critical infrastructure facility. The definition of “critical infrastructure” is so broad that it effectively encompasses nearly the entire state of Ohio. As a result, individuals from so-called “adversary nations” would be virtually prohibited from owning property anywhere in the state.

This restriction raises serious constitutional and ethical concerns. **SB 88 does not distinguish between foreign governments and private individuals**. Many immigrants—myself included—have come to the U.S. legally through a rigorous visa process to work, contribute, and build a life here. Equating our presence with national security threats is unjust and unfounded.

Even more concerning, the bill calls for **forced divestment**—requiring individuals who purchased property before the bill takes effect to sell or face foreclosure and legal action. This raises **constitutional red flags**, particularly in relation to due process and property rights.

Similar laws in other states, such as Florida, have already triggered lawsuits on **constitutional grounds**, especially under the **Equal Protection Clause** of the **Fourteenth Amendment**. Ohio should not waste taxpayer dollars defending legislation that is likely to be overturned in court.

Beyond the legal issues, **SB 88 would have deeply harmful effects** on individuals, families, and Ohio’s economy. It would deter skilled immigrants from settling in our state and could drive away those who have already made Ohio their home. It sends a chilling and exclusionary message—not just to people from the listed countries, but to **all immigrants**—suggesting that our backgrounds alone make us untrustworthy or unworthy of homeownership.

Additionally, even **U.S. citizens of Asian descent** could be adversely affected, as the bill could encourage **racial profiling** and **housing discrimination**. Similar consequences have already been reported in states like Florida and Texas following the passage of comparable laws.

SB 88 is not just a misguided policy—it is a harmful one. I urge you to oppose this bill and instead uphold the values of **fairness, equality, and opportunity** that reflect the best of Ohio.

Sincerely,
Xuan Pu