

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Hong Qiu
Organization: Asian American Coalition of Ohio
Testifying as Opponent

My name is Hong Qiu. I live in Dublin, Ohio, and I serve as a board member of the Asian American Coalition of Ohio.

Over 30 years ago, I came to the United States to pursue graduate studies at The Ohio State University. After earning a Ph.D. in Chemistry and my husband a Master's degree in Computer Science, we chose to make Ohio our home and raise our family here. Owning a home gave our children the security and foundation they needed to thrive—an opportunity that should be available to all residents who call this country home. I treasure the freedom America presents to all. Since becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen, I have voted in every election because it is my duty and also my right to participate in the democratic process.

I am deeply troubled by the proposed Senate Bill 88, which unfairly restricts certain foreign nationals from owning property in Ohio based solely on their country of origin. While I strongly support reasonable protections that prevent foreign governments and military-linked entities from purchasing land near military bases or critical infrastructure, SB88 goes far beyond that. It strips individuals—regardless of who they are: law-abiding members of the society, green card holders, immigrants who contribute to our communities—of the fundamental right to own a home. This is discriminatory, unconstitutional, and echoes the unjust Alien Land Laws of the past.

Denying individual residents the same property rights as other Americans undermines the principles of equality and due process, the foundation of America. SB88 sends the message that people from certain backgrounds are permanently “other,” no matter how long they’ve lived here, worked here, raised families here, or how much they have contributed to the community here. That is not the Ohio—or the America—we should aspire to be.

I urge you to reject the overreach of SB88, eliminate restrictions on individual ownership, protect lawful economic activities, and focus solely on addressing legitimate national security risks posed by foreign state-controlled entities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1
Submitted by: Hong Qiu

Organization: Asian American Coalition of Ohio
Testifying as Opponent

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the Ohio House Public Safety Committee

My name is Hong Qiu. I live in Dublin, Ohio, and I serve as a board member of the Asian American Coalition of Ohio.

Over 30 years ago, I came to the United States to pursue graduate studies at The Ohio State University. After earning a Ph.D. in Chemistry and my husband a Master's degree in Computer Science, we made Ohio our home and raised our family here. Owning a home gave our children a sense of stability and belonging—values that reflect the American dream. Since becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen, I have never missed an election, because I believe deeply in the responsibilities of democratic participation.

I am deeply alarmed by the proposed House Bill 1. This bill, which seeks to ban certain foreign nationals from owning property in Ohio, is rooted in the same discriminatory thinking as the shameful Alien Land Laws of a century ago. It singles out individuals based solely on national origin under the pretense of national security. This is not only unjust—it is unconstitutional.

HB1 will undermine Ohio's economy by deterring lawful investment from immigrants who contribute to our communities and industries. It sends a dangerous message: that people from certain countries, regardless of their character or commitment to this nation, are not welcome here. This bill is a direct attack on fairness, civil rights, and the values we claim to uphold.

I strongly urge you to vote **NO** on House Bill 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.