

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Tianli Du

Testifying as Opponent

May 25, 2025

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. I am Tianli Du, a Solon Ohio resident and a trauma surgeon.

I am a trauma surgeon living in Solon, OH. As a lawful immigrant, I came to the United States from China in the year 2008 to pursue my undergraduate degree. After 14 years of hardwork in America, I became a trauma surgeon. I devote my life to saving people's lives in America. I have a beautiful family in Ohio. If this Bill ever were to pass, we had to move to another state because of the restriction.

The first concern I have is that the restricted area is overly broad. 25 miles radius from the military base and critical infrastructure literally means the whole Ohio is restricted from people from those countries. Critical infrastructure includes a wide variety of facilities including railroads, transmission lines, any government facilities, and even trash removal facilities. Limiting the access only near military bases seems more reasonable, just like the Bill Indiana passed.

My second concern is that the people who were proposed to have those restrictions are overly broad. This Bill includes the people who received green cards. Green card application is a strict process which includes FBI background checks. For Chinese individuals, there is a long queue for green card applications. They usually need to spend at least 10 years in America before they are able to obtain a green card. These people are deeply rooted in Ohio. They have the same value as common Americans and their kids go to public schools in Ohio.

My third concern is mainly about the medical students, residents and new doctors from those countries. As we know, medical education is a long process. I spent my whole adult life in America, and I received my green card only recently after 17 years in America. I know many medical residents from foreign countries in Ohio. They spent 4 years in college, 4 years of medical school and 3-6 years in residency. After they become attendings, many of

them would serve at critical access hospitals in Ohio. If this Bill were to pass, they all have to leave Ohio. I was also a general surgery attending in Ashtabula from 2020 to 2023. I know those areas need doctors, and many doctors there are from foreign countries. If this Bill can exempt people in medical professions, it would benefit the people in Ohio.

I respectfully urge you to consider my testimony and to vote NO on S.B. 88. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tianli Du

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