

## **Testimony Against Senate Bill 88**

**Submitted by: Ying Gao**

**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. My name is Ying Gao. I stand here today to oppose SB88, not because I have to stay in Ohio, but because I love living here. I love the people I work with; I love the hot homemade food by my American neighbors; I love the joy on my child's face when they play in our community. I currently work for First Solar, and my husband works for the University of Cincinnati. Our 7- and 10-years old boys are studying in Mason schools, which they love dearly. Today the little one was overhearing something and asked me "mom, why I was born in Ohio, but I am not allowed to live in Ohio?" I don't know how to answer...

I oppose this bill not just for my sake but for the sake of many others. While many have already highlighted the potential discrimination against Chinese individuals and the negative economic impacts of this bill, I would like to share something more personal.

When I moved to the United States in 2011, I was deeply touched by the kindness and love that Americans showed. When I had my first baby, my mom often took him to the park. On three separate occasions, it started to rain, and every time, someone offered my mom an umbrella when they saw her with my son walking in the rain. Although my mom didn't speak English and tried to not accept the umbrella, they still insisted. She was so much moved by their kindness, so she shared these stories with many friends and family after she back to China. We have since passed those umbrellas on, hoping to continue spreading that kindness.

However, over time, this kindness seems to have diminished, particularly with the recent introduction of SB88, which would prevent legal Chinese people from buying homes in Ohio. I believe some of the bill's supporters may not have had the chance to work closely with Chinese

individuals and therefore may not understand our hardworking and kind spirit. During my year at Fuyao Glass America, I witnessed the dedication of Chinese workers to U.S. manufacturing. Since moving to First Solar, my American colleagues, American mentor, and American boss have seen my value, passion, and dedication. I felt deeply trusted by them.

However, it is disheartening to think that we are not trusted by those who do not know us and want us to leave Ohio. If this bill passes, my family and I, along with many others, could move to other states or countries. But I urge you to consider: What will Ohio be left with? Without the influx of young immigrants to contribute, there will be no new blood, no fresh ideas.

Let's not lose the kindness, diversity, and vibrancy that have made Ohio and America great. Let's reject SB88!

Thank you.

Ying G

Mason, Ohio