

## **Testimony Against Senate Bill 88**

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**Testifying As an Opponent**

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Chairwoman Roegner and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify against Senate Bill 88. I am a college professor and live in the city of Findlay. I am a US citizen. This bill does not target me directly. However, I am testifying against it because it is simply a wrong bill.

This bill is illegal. Many of us have heard about the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Articles VIII and IX the Civil Rights Act of 1968 are also known as the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate against buying or renting a residence because of their country of origin. This bill promotes exactly that. It would ban citizens of affected countries from buying and owning a house in Ohio.

This bill is unethical. It hurts those who we say we want to protect and are supposed to protect. Imagine somebody risked their life, escaped from North Korea and ended up in Ohio. This bill will tell this brave soul that they don't belong here. They cannot even buy a house here in Ohio. North Korea is just one example. Any other countries would be the same. This is un-American.

This bill hurts the economy. Ohio is lucky to have a few assembly plants from some of the best international corporations. One such example is Fuyao Glass. It bases in China. When General Motor closed its plant in Moraine. Thousands of people lost their jobs. I still feel their pain. Moraine is only two hours south of Findlay on I75. Fuyao came to establish a plant in Moraine, invest more than 1 billion dollars and create more than 3000 jobs. Now Moraine makes glass for many major car brands, including GM, Ford and Tesla. This bill will take away all those jobs and force Fuyao to close the plant. Other companies would worry if they would be the next target. If I were their CEO, I would worry about the safety of our employees and assets and will not expand our business in Ohio, to say the least.

You may argue that the affected individuals can just become US citizens, and the problem is solved. No, the legal immigration process is lengthy. For myself, it took 18 years. It cannot happen tomorrow. And this bill targets all legal immigrants from the affected counties. Please do not forget that we are a country of immigration. Either you or your ancestors immigrated within the last 400 years, unless you are a native American. By the way, Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Guardians have quite a few players from Cuba and Venezuela. This bill simply tells them that they may be able to play in the MLB, but they cannot own a house in Ohio.

This bill doesn't make Ohio any safer. I totally understand the importance of national security. Most people immigrated to the US are here to have a better life and live the American dream, including those from the affected countries. This bill divides us and makes us point our fingers to each other and hate each other. If you think you are safe because your ancestors did not come from one of the affected countries, you are dead wrong because your co-workers don't know your family history. Kids at schools especially don't know the family histories of their friends. Let's be honest. We have enough bullies at schools already. This bill will make it much worse.

Let me end my testimony with a quote from Jesus. I know many here are Christians. John 13:34-45: "Love each other just as much as I have loved you. For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another everybody will know that you're my true followers." Do what Jesus says, if you are a true Christian. Do the right thing, drop this bill and make Ohio safe and prosperous. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Xu Lu, Ph.D.