

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Jingjie Wu
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 in opposition to Senate Bill 88. My name is Jingjie Wu, and I am a resident of Mason, Ohio, and an Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

I came to the United States in 2009 to pursue my Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Over the past 16 years, I have been fortunate to study, work, and build a life here. Today, I am a tenured professor and a parent raising two children in this state. I remain deeply grateful for the openness, generosity, and inclusiveness that have defined my American experience.

As a faculty member, I am committed to educating and mentoring the next generation of engineers. I work closely with students—many of them from Ohio—to prepare them for careers in science and technology. My research focuses on converting waste gases such as carbon dioxide into valuable industrial chemicals, advancing sustainability and innovation. These efforts support not only academic progress but also the needs of Ohio's growing clean energy and manufacturing sectors.

I am not alone in this commitment. Many of my Chinese colleagues across Ohio's universities dedicate themselves to teaching and research with the same level of care and professionalism. Our contributions are valued by our departments, institutions, and the broader academic community—not for our national origins, but for the impact of our work.

International scholars and students play a vital role in this ecosystem. In Ohio and across the country, they are a key source of the next-generation workforce—filling gaps in graduate enrollment, driving innovation in research labs, and contributing directly to industries that fuel the state's economy. From advanced materials and biomedical devices to sustainable energy and data science, international talent is embedded in every stage of discovery and development. Their presence strengthens our institutions and supports Ohio's leadership in science, technology, and economic competitiveness.

Senate Bill 88 is the first time I have felt a sense of alienation in a country that has otherwise welcomed and supported me. If enacted, this legislation risks creating fear and uncertainty among international researchers and students. It would also threaten Ohio's ability to attract and retain the global talent needed to maintain its competitive edge in industry and innovation.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider SB 88. It sends the wrong message to those who are contributing to Ohio's future and undermines the inclusive values that make this state a destination for talent and opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jingjie Wu