

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Yifeng Jia
Testifying as Opponent
May 25, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

I am writing to express my deepest concern and strongest opposition to Senate Bill 88 (SB88), which seeks to prohibit Chinese nationals—including those with valid visas and green cards—from owning property in Ohio.

SB88 stands in direct conflict with the core principles upon which this nation was founded: equality, liberty, and individual freedom. It also violates a fundamental legal tenet—the presumption of innocence.

Ohio thrives on the contributions, talent, and diversity of its residents, regardless of their country of origin. To sustain economic growth and remain a welcoming, competitive state, Ohio should continue to attract global investment and skilled professionals. SB88 undermines that goal, harming Ohioans, tarnishing the state's reputation, and deterring the very people and resources essential to its prosperity.

I moved to Ohio in 2019 after earning a Ph.D. in Economics from University of Missouri. I lived in Solon for two years before purchasing my first home in the city of Reminderville in 2022—a true milestone in my life. Since then, I have lived there with my wife and our lovely daughter, fully embracing this community and the values it upholds. Ohio has been more than just a place to live; it has become home. From kind neighbors and supportive coworkers to small business owners and educators, I have encountered openness, generosity, and a spirit of inclusion that reaffirmed my decision to settle here.

That is why SB88 is so deeply troubling. It threatens to turn law-abiding, peaceful residents—people like me, who contribute to society—into second-class citizens. It sends a message that we are unwelcome—not because of our actions, but solely because of our birthplace. That is not only unfair; it is fundamentally un-American.

The Chinese community in Ohio is composed of hardworking families, students, researchers, and professionals who contribute to the economy, volunteer in our communities, and support local businesses. Denying us the right to own property undermines the very spirit of inclusion that drew me to Ohio in the first place.

Beyond the moral and ethical concerns, SB88 would inflict lasting damage on Ohio's economy and global standing. By discouraging investment and deterring talent, it would make Ohio a less attractive place to live and grow. This bill is not only unjust—it is also counterproductive.

I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB88 and support a future in which all residents are treated with fairness and dignity, regardless of their heritage. While I understand the importance of national security, I firmly believe there are more effective ways to address these concerns without imposing broad and unintended consequences.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Yifeng Jia