

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Christopher Malick
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 provide opponent testimony on **Senate Bill 88 (SB 88)**.

To start, I'll give you a little background on myself: I'm Chris, I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and I've been a lifelong Republican voter. That last part is beginning to become a source of shame to me in light of HB1 and SB88. It's time to stop the intellectual dishonesty and insults to everyone's intelligence. SB88 is being promoted as legislation to improve national security, but its real purpose, which is easy to see, is to make supporters of the bill appear as though they're tough on China and other so-called adversary countries. The actual group being harmed by this bill is the group of legal immigrants who bravely packed up their lives and came to live in Ohio.

These are people who came to receive Ohio's education, work for Ohio companies doing Ohio jobs, contribute to Ohio's economy, and become productive members of Ohio's communities. They believed our great state gave them the best opportunity in the world to live the lives they've always wanted, and it did before shameful bills like these were thought of.

Thousands of Chinese-born people in Ohio would effectively be driven out by this bill. If anybody believes this is such an easy voter grab, I'd like to point out that this is much more likely to have the opposite effect. Naturally, immigrants who have become voting citizens would never trust you again. Besides them, millions of American Ohioans whose doctors, lawyers, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, favorite restaurants, and friends were driven out of the state by this bill will know the reason why and who did it, and they will never support you again.

This bill is legalized hate. This bill is killing the American Dream. As long as a bill like this stomps on the dreams of hard-working legal immigrant residents of Ohio, then the American Dream may as well be dead. Every member of Congress takes an oath to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution, effectively to do no harm. As long as this bill exists and impacts the legal residents of our state, its supporters should feel ashamed to support such an un-American bill. These may not all be American people, but they are America's people. The only difference between those of us who were born here and these legal immigrants is that they chose to be here and did it the right way. Why would you punish someone who did everything right? I'm an American, and this bill does not make me feel any more secure. In fact, I've never been more afraid for my freedom and country in my adult life.

Sincerely,
Christopher Malick