

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Ruiling Liu
Testifying as Opponent

May 25, 2025

Chairwoman 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. I am Ruiling Liu. I came to the U.S. as a Ph.D student, was a permanent resident for about 10 years, and just become a U.S. citizen last year. I have been living in Mason, Ohio, since 2017 with my husband, who is currently a permanent resident, and two children, who are U.S. citizens. I am a scientist working in the healthcare industry.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 88 as it brings hostile discriminations against legal immigrants and U.S. born citizens based on their own or their families' country origin, it is harmful to Ohio, while at the same time it won't serve its intended purpose.

Senate Bill 88 brings hostile discriminations against legal immigrants and U.S. born citizens based on their own or their families' country origin. These individuals are not the same as the governments of the adversary countries, while they will be treated as national security threats by the Ohio government and the general public because of the Bill. My husband and I are legal immigrants and have gone through numerous background clearance since we applied for a visa to come to the U.S. and when we are employed. We pay tax and contribute to society via our work and volunteering to communities. Our children were born here, have lived and studied in the U.S. for their whole life. However, just because we are Chinese, if the Bill is passed, we may be treated as national security threats and will need to go through more scrutiny/audition or even get denied to buy a house in Ohio, as you can't tell whether a Chinese or even an Asian is an U.S. citizen upfront. People may be more reluctant to sell a house to us or be neighbors with us just because we are Chinese. If the Bill is passed, it will create racial discrimination and segregation, which will repeat the history and should never be tolerated in the modern U.S.

Senate Bill 88 is harmful to Ohio. Legal immigrants from the listed countries and their descendants work in almost every industry and aspect of the Ohio economy area and have been making tremendous contributions to the society and economy in Ohio. The Bill will drive these individuals away from Ohio and deter others from coming to Ohio. Our family and many similar families will move to other states if we feel discriminated against and not welcome in Ohio. It will also drive away U.S. or international companies as their needs for talents can't be met. As a result, Ohio, as a middle west state, will lose its economy entirely.

Senate Bill 88 will not be effective for its claimed purpose and is using national security as a disguise for racial discrimination. For ordinary legal immigrants as us, the Bill will do nothing but create racial discrimination and segregation; all legal immigrants have gone through numerous clearance background checks when they first apply for a visa to come to the U.S. and when

they enter the workforce. For non-ordinary individuals that may potentially be threats to national security, prohibiting them from buying a property won't prevent them from doing harm to the country. "National security" has long been used to justify the unconstitutional profiling of, and discrimination against, Black, Brown, Chinese and other historically marginalized communities.

There are many other reasons that Senate Bill 88 is discriminatory and is harmful to society and the Ohio economy. And I respectfully urge you to **vote NO on S.B. 88**. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruiling