

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Xu Han
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 against Senate Bill 88. My name is Xu Han, a Delaware county resident.

I came to the United States after my college for my graduate study in Ohio. After two masters degrees I started working in Columbus and fell in love with this city for its diverse cultural/food scene, vibrant art scene and affordable cost of living. I have been living in Columbus for over 10 years with my husband and two daughters.

Although myself just recently became a U.S. citizen, I have a lot of Chinese friends that are either permanent residents or on working visa. Most of them are young working professionals who either already started or wanting to start a family here in Ohio. It usually takes ten years to get a green card after obtaining an H1B working visa, then a couple more years from green card to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Senate Bill 88 restricts the rights of individuals from China and other countries to purchase or own property in the state of Ohio. This bill will effectively force all the law-abiding, legal Chinese immigrants with good paying jobs to seek opportunities elsewhere by preventing them to take root in the state of Ohio. Senate Bill 88 fuels suspicion, sows fear, and risks alienating an entire community of hardworking legal immigrants who have chosen to live, work and invest in Ohio.

This bill undermines the state's reputation as a welcoming place attracting international business and talent and sends a chilling message that people of Chinese origin are not to be trusted – regarding of their citizenship status, contributions, or legal compliance. Instead of broad blanket restrictions, Ohio should pursue policies that promotes transparency, fairness and economic growth without resorting to racial or national origin profiling.

I respectfully urge you to consider my testimony and to vote NO on S.B. 88. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Xu Han