

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Zhe Chen
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. I am Zhe Chen, a Dublin Ohio resident and I'm a State of Ohio employee.

I came to Ohio in 2014 as a software engineer under the H-1B visa program. Like many immigrants, I arrived with hope, determination, and a strong work ethic. Over the years, I dedicated myself not only to my profession but also to building a stable, meaningful life here.

In 2018, I obtained my permanent residency (green card), and in 2024, after meeting all the requirements and going through the lengthy naturalization process, I became a United States citizen. As you may know, this journey typically takes between 8 to 10 years or more—years filled with hard work, perseverance, and commitment to this country and its values.

Ohio is not just where I work—it's where I live, contribute, and belong. I have made it my permanent home, and as a citizen, I believe that owning a home is not a luxury, but a fundamental right. A stable residence is essential for a stable life. Without a home, it is incredibly difficult to feel secure, to thrive, and to truly integrate into society.

I hope my story illustrates not just a personal achievement, but a testament to the values of opportunity, community, and belonging that define Ohio—and America.

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,

Zhe Chen