

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Peng Guan
Testifying as Opponent

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Peng Guan

Dear Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

My name is Peng, and I am writing to express my strong and heartfelt opposition to House Bill 1, which seeks to prohibit Chinese nationals from purchasing property in the state of Ohio.

I came to the United States over a decade ago as an international student to pursue my PhD. After graduation, I applied for the H-1B visa five times — and failed every single time in the lottery system. Despite the repeated setbacks, I never gave up on contributing to this country. Through extraordinary effort, I was eventually granted permanent residency through the EB-1A category — a green card reserved for individuals with sustained national or international acclaim. The bar for this category is extremely high; it is one of the most difficult immigration pathways, requiring evidence of extraordinary ability and significant contributions to one's field.

Like many other immigrants, I worked tirelessly for years, not only to stay in the U.S. legally but also to contribute meaningfully to its economy, research, and communities. I am now a proud father of two American-born children and a permanent resident who has built a life and future here in Ohio.

S.B. 88 is more than a policy proposal — it is a painful message to people like me. After everything we've overcome to live here lawfully, work hard, and raise families, this bill tells us we will still be treated with suspicion simply because of where we were born. That is heartbreaking.

Let me be clear: concerns about national security should not be used as a veil for racial profiling or xenophobic policy. There are already federal systems in place to monitor and address such risks. Punishing an entire group of people because of where they were born is not only unconstitutional — it's un-American.

As a father, I want my children to grow up in a state that welcomes people of all backgrounds and honors the hard work and integrity that immigrants bring. As an Ohio resident, I want my elected officials to uphold principles of fairness and reject legislation that divides us.

Please oppose S.B.88. It does not protect our state — it undermines our values.

Thank you for your consideration

Peng