

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Kevin Ni
Testifying as Opponent

May 24, 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 Kevin Ni, a Maumee resident and a high school student.

I am 16 years old and the son of two Chinese immigrants. My family and I have lived in our Monclova home for all 16 of those years. My dad attended Northwestern University as a foreign student, went to Harvard for post-graduate research, and now works as a senior scientist with numerous patents on file. My mom attended the University of Illinois, Chicago, and obtained her Master of Business Administration. She attends bible studies every week.

Although my parents are non-citizens, both of my parents have made great contributions to our community, paid taxes, and legally reside in the United States with green cards. Despite this, S.B. 88 threatens to strip the homes and livelihoods of law-abiding families like mine simply because of our country of origin.

According to the bill, citizens of a country deemed as a "foreign adversary" may not own property within 25 miles of land belonging to the military or critical infrastructure. However, nearly all of Ohio's land falls under the criteria outlined by the bill, meaning that the bill effectively bars affected persons from owning any land or businesses in Ohio. Furthermore, this bill extends the criteria of affected persons to include green card holders. This legislation gives the government far too much power in determining the livelihoods of families of foreign origin. Labeling individuals based on their country of origin is outright discriminatory and goes against the principles of equality that the United States was founded upon.

Although I am only 16, I believe I stand with numerous first-generation Chinese immigrants in America when I say that we have never once in our lives thought that we would have to protest our right to property in the 21st century. Considering the current state of diplomacy between the United States and China, it goes without saying that Chinese residents and businesses will be most immediately affected by S.B. 88. In my case, my home could be gone before I even graduate from high school.

Ladies and gentlemen, I implore you to consider the implications that S.B. 88 will have on Ohio's residents and vote no to this discriminatory bill.

Sincerely,
Kevin Ni