

OPPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 88-Ohio Property Protection Act

Zhenhan Zhu

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairwoman Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and other honorable members of the Senate General Government Committee,

My name is Zhenhan Zhu, and I am a Ph.D. student currently studying in Ohio. My wife is also a student here. Together, we are working hard to build a future for ourselves and our family. In March of this year, after years of saving, we finally purchased our first small condo, a modest home we dreamed of for so long. It was meant to be our sanctuary, our place to start a family.

As Ph.D. students, we expect to spend five to six years in Ohio. During this time, we hope to welcome our first child into the world. This small condo was never an investment or a political statement; it was simply a home where we could give our child a safe and loving environment to grow up in.

But now, SB88 threatens to take that dream away. It tells us that because of our nationality, we may be forced to sell the home we have worked so hard to build. This is not just a financial loss, it is the loss of our stability, our future, and the promise we hoped to make to our child: that no matter where we came from, we would give them a safe and secure home.

I cannot understand why, in a country known for its diversity and inclusiveness, my wife and I—ordinary students, law-abiding residents—are suddenly seen as a threat, simply because we hold Chinese citizenship. We are not here to harm; we are here to learn, contribute, and build a better life.

SB88, as currently written, is among the harshest laws in the nation. It does not only prevent Chinese citizens from purchasing new properties; it also forces families like mine to sell homes we already legally own. How can a young couple like us, working hard to build a future, possibly absorb such a loss? How can we explain to our future child that the home

we lovingly prepared for them is no longer ours—because of a law that judges people not by their actions, but by their nationality?

Please, I urge you to reconsider SB88. We are just an ordinary couple, trying to build a home, raise a child, and live in peace. We ask for no special privileges—just the basic right to have a place to call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zhenhan Zhu