

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Xin Yuan

Testifying as Opponent

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and esteemed members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Xin Yuan. I'm a resident of Delaware County, and I've called Ohio home for nearly ten years. I respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 88 for three critical reasons.

First, it discriminates against Asian communities and is racist. Second, it unfairly targets lawful immigrants of Chinese origin and five other countries under the pretense of national security. Third, it hurts Ohio's economy and its reputation as a diverse, welcoming state.

Last week, I testified against House Bill 1, which closely resembles SB88. I shared that I recently became a mother. Afterward, I was asked: *What would this bill mean for your son?* That question has haunted me. It's why I'm back today—still a mom, still fighting—for my son and for the many Ohio children who could be harmed by this bill.

If SB88 becomes law, my son could lose his home before he even understands what "homeless" means. My husband and I worked hard, legally and faithfully, to provide him a stable life. Without a home, he won't have access to healthcare, education, or the security every child deserves. One day, he would ask me, *Why can't we live here? Why do families who don't look like us get to stay, but we don't?* He'll question his identity as an Asian child in America. He'll wonder why he's seen as a threat simply because of where his parents were born. How do I answer that? What do I teach him about the country he calls home, where "all men are created equal", but he's not?

In Delaware County and across central Ohio, it is nearly impossible to find a home that isn't within 25 miles of a "protected property". Are we forcing families into tiny zones—like modern-day concentration camps? That's not security. That's discrimination.

And my son is not alone. Every child in every family here today—and thousands more—would be affected. If the future of these Ohio children isn't sufficient to prompt our lawmakers to reconsider this bill, how can any of us here claim to be worthy of being parents or leaders?

Let me be clear: we support national security. We are all rooted in this community. If Ohio is under threat, we will be the victims too. SB88 targets people based on where they were born—not on evidence of any risk. Section G(4) of this bill explicitly states that the Ohio

Secretary of State cannot independently list an entity unless it appears on a federal list. So what's the legal authority of this bill to go further and target lawful immigrants? Security policy must be precise and responsible—not politically convenient and punitive.

This bill also hurts Ohio's economy. Chinese buyers purchased around 760 homes in Ohio in 2022¹. If this bill passes, Ohio could lose **\$181 million** in home sales, **\$3 million** in property tax revenue, and **\$56 million** in consumer spending²³⁴. And these figures don't even account for the deeper damage: families uprooted, and businesses suffered.

I urge you to consider the real lives behind this legislation. My son is not a threat. He is a child. He deserves a future Ohio. Please oppose SB88. Thank you!

¹ <https://www.ohiorealtors.org/blog/1671/study-shows-impact-foreign-buyers-are-having-on-ohios-housing-market>

² <https://www.zillow.com/home-values/44/oh>

³ https://www.hrblock.com/tax-center/filing/states/ohio-property-tax/?srsltid=AfmBOoqg6nRH7Kvumu2tAMbaa5Egtw5cVHZ_15l4fT5k8fS5NbKHzfB&

⁴ https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/consumerexpenditures_selectedareas_table.htm?