

## **Lucy Hutchins**

### **Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 88**

**May 25, 2025**

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on Senate Bill 88.

My name is Lucy Hutchins. I am a Chinese American, and I'm an accountant at Marathon Petroleum Corporation. Today I'm here to represent myself, my family, and my Chinese friends.

Vice Chair Gavarone, though we came from different parts of the world, we still have a lot in common. I went to the same college as you did. Yes, I went to BGSU as well for business but with accounting concentration. Like your husband, my son plays hockey. He might have played at the ice arena where your husband played while going to college.

My husband and I have been living in Ohio for over 13 years. I'm originally from China. I came to the States because my husband is a U. S. citizen. It took me 6 years to become a citizen. For 6 years, I lived in the States as a foreigner. Fortunately, foreigners were allowed to buy houses at that time. My husband and I worked together and bought a house to raise our son in our own home. Our son was interested in 4H program. We started to garden in our new house, and we raised farm animals. So, our son could show them at our county fair.

Should SB 88 pass as written, my Chinese friends who are not citizens yet, but their children who were U.S. born citizens will not have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities such as 4H program because these parents are prohibited to purchase single-family homes. To make matter worse, SB 88 requires legal immigrants who are from China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, and Venezuela to sell their homes within two years of the bill's effective date if their houses are within 25 miles of a military camp or a critical infrastructure facility. This pretty well covers all the residential houses in Ohio. Also, in Senate Johnson's sponsor testimony, he only identified large land purchases from foreign businesses and governments as posing a threat to our national security, and not individuals buying single-family homes. Why then does this bill target the purchase of single-family homes?

Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination based on national origin. In addition, SB 88 conflicts with federal law, as Congress has already established a system for reviewing foreign investments in real estate.

Immigrants are not a threat to our national security. As an immigrant myself, I had to have my background checked before I was able to enter into the United States as this is part of

Homeland Security's process. We came here for a better life and a better future, and we contribute to our communities. We work hard, pay taxes, and get involved in our community. I was a pack treasurer for Boy Scouts of America. I helped YMCA with their Fee-A-Child program and made a direct impact on the lives of local families. We are valued citizens as well.

In closing, Senate Bill 88 uses national security as a disguise to discriminate against people based on their birthplace. It is a step backward for Ohio as it drives talents and foreign companies out of Ohio, undermines the state's economic vitality, and violates federal civil rights law. Therefore, I respectfully urge this committee to vote NO on SB 88! Thank you for your time and consideration!