

OPPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 88 – Ohio Property Protection Act

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

My name is Merrin Chen, and I am currently living and studying in Ohio with my husband. We are a young couple working hard to build a future here. I am especially grateful and excited, because I am preparing to become a mother. Like so many families, our biggest hope is to provide a safe and stable home for our child.

After years of saving and careful planning, we are now looking for a modest house in Ohio—a place where we can welcome our baby and give them the safety and warmth every child deserves. For us, a home is not just a property; it is the foundation for our family, our dreams, and our future.

However, Senate Bill 88 threatens to take away this dream. The bill tells us that because we are Chinese citizens, we may not be allowed to purchase a home, or even be forced to sell a home we worked so hard to earn. This is not just a financial loss—it would be the loss of our stability and the promise I hope to give my child: that they will have a safe place to call home.

I have always believed that America is a country built on opportunity, diversity, and fairness. My husband and I are ordinary people, law-abiding residents, and we came here to study, work hard, and contribute to our community. We are not investors or political actors. We just want to raise our family in peace.

As an expecting mother, I am deeply worried. How can I explain to my child that they lost their home—not because of anything we did, but because of a law that judges us by our nationality? How can we build a secure life if our right to a home can be taken away?

I respectfully urge you to reconsider SB88. Please think about families like mine—future parents, neighbors, and classmates—who are only seeking a safe and stable place to live. We ask for nothing more than the basic right to call Ohio our home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Merrin Chen