

## Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Yufeng Bai

Testifying as Opponent

May 23, 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. My name is Yufeng Bai. I am a Columbus resident and currently a graduate student at Capital University. As a young adult who came to Ohio to pursue higher education and build a future here, I have a deep interest in how our state creates laws that impact not only on students and educators, but the values of fairness, privacy, and freedom of expression in our communities.

I am testifying today in opposition to Senate Bill 88 for two main reasons:

### 1. The Bill Threatens Academic Freedom and Classroom Honesty

One of my professors encouraged open discussion of diverse perspectives in class — including race, gender, and history — which helped me better understand both American society and my place in it. Senate Bill 88, by attempting to limit the way certain topics are taught or discussed, would restrict such dialogue and potentially penalize educators for engaging students in real-world, complex conversations.

Research by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) shows that laws that attempt to restrict teaching around race and gender discourage faculty from covering important topics and result in a chilling effect on academic freedom (source: [AAUP, 2023](#)). As a student, I need an honest and inclusive education — not one filtered through political pressure.

### 2. It Creates Fear and Confusion for International and Minority Students

As an international student, I already face unique challenges adjusting to a new culture and academic system. If teachers or university staff feel hesitant to even mention race, immigration, or systemic injustice, it leaves students like me isolated and without context to understand important cultural dynamics. Last year, I joined a discussion led by a faculty member about social justice in public policy — it gave me tools to engage thoughtfully in my studies and community. Senate Bill 88 would discourage these learning opportunities and send the message that some topics — and some people — are unwelcome in the classroom.

I respectfully urge you to consider the voices of students, educators, and community members who value truth, inclusivity, and education without censorship. Please vote NO on Senate Bill 88.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Yufeng Bai