

## **Testimony Against Senate Bill 88**

**Submitted by: Kristen Kidder**

**Testifying as Opponent**

May 25, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 88. My name is Kristen Kidder, a resident of Lewis Center and an active real estate agent serving the Central Columbus area.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88 in its current form. While I understand and support efforts to safeguard our national security, SB 88, as currently written, raises serious concerns regarding fairness, constitutionality, and the potential for discriminatory impact.

### **1. The Bill Undermines Fair Housing and Risks Appealing to Racial Bias**

Senate Bill 88 conflicts with the principles of fair housing by enabling discrimination based on national origin or immigration status. Without precise language and safeguards, this bill may invite racially motivated targeting of individuals and communities, regardless of their legal status or contribution to Ohio. Such broad language risks fueling xenophobic sentiment and undermining the diverse fabric that strengthens our state.

### **2. Amend the Bill to Explicitly Exempt Lawful Permanent Residents and Visa Holders**

SB 88 must be amended to **explicitly exempt lawful permanent residents and individuals holding valid U.S. visas**—including those with H-1B and F-1 status. These individuals are legally present in the United States, many of whom live, work, study, and pay taxes in Ohio. They contribute significantly to our economy, innovation, and community life. Sweeping them into the scope of this legislation is both unjust and harmful.

### **3. Clarify the Definition of “Protected Property” and Limit the Scope**

The current definition of “protected property” lacks precision and invites excessive overreach. A broad radius—undefined or too expansive—risks unfairly restricting legitimate transactions. To ensure clarity and fairness, I urge the committee to **limit the radius to five (5) miles or less** from designated critical infrastructure. This maintains a balance between national security interests and property rights.

### **4. Refocus the Bill to Target Foreign Government-Controlled Entities**

To effectively address genuine security concerns, the bill should be **narrowly tailored to apply only to foreign entities owned, operated, or controlled by foreign governments or adversarial regimes**. Private individuals who are lawfully in the U.S. and acting in good faith should not be conflated with government agents. Failing to make this distinction punishes innocent people and risks diminishing the credibility and enforceability of the law.

### **In Conclusion**

Senate Bill 88 must be revised to ensure it does not compromise civil rights, violate constitutional protections, or perpetuate racial or national-origin discrimination. Security and fairness are not mutually exclusive—Ohio can and must uphold both.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Kidder