

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 88 - 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 provide testimony. I am writing today as a veterinarian and a lawful permanent resident who has lived in Columbus, Ohio since 2010. Over the past 14 years, I have built my life here. I have committed myself to the care and wellbeing of animals in this community, often providing veterinary services to families and pets in need. Ohio is my home.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 88 because it is fundamentally unjust. SB88 is not about national security—it is a racially motivated bill that unfairly targets Asian communities under the guise of protecting state interests. This bill casts suspicion on law-abiding residents like myself, who have gone through a rigorous and thorough vetting process by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to obtain permanent residency. We are not here to engage in political maneuvering—we are here to live, work, and contribute meaningfully to our communities.

SB88 sends a message that people like me—who have lived here for over a decade, paid taxes, built careers, and contributed to Ohio's economy—are somehow less trustworthy or less deserving of the basic right to own a home or land. That is not only discriminatory—it is dehumanizing. What kind of "permanent resident" is denied the right to settle down, raise a family, and own property in the place they call home?

This bill is not just harmful—it is offensive. It drags innocent, hard-working individuals into the political conflicts between governments we have no involvement in. It punishes everyday people who want nothing more than to live peacefully and contribute to society. If passed, SB88 will erode trust between immigrant communities and the state government, create fear and division, and further marginalize groups that already face barriers to equality and inclusion.

SB88 does not protect Ohio—it hurts Ohio. It undermines the economic contributions of immigrants, weakens social cohesion, and sets a dangerous precedent of racial and national origin-based profiling. This bill is not about security. It's about scapegoating.

Please oppose Senate Bill 88. Reject this measure that sows division, discriminates against lawful residents, and harms the very fabric of Ohio's communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Xinmei Yao, DVM, CVA