

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: Yiting Xia
Testifying as Opponent

May 26, 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. I am Yiting Xia, a Perrysburg resident and a public school teacher.

I had been living in Beijing, China, for nearly 20 years, where I worked as a radio host, a TV program manager in different media companies. In 2015, after marrying my husband, an American citizen, I moved to Ohio. Upon arriving, with my professional skills, I immediately began teaching Mandarin at the local Chinese School, served as a translator at an elementary school, and completed my Master's degree in World Language Education in 2021. I became a Mandarin and Chinese Culture teacher at a high school after. With the combined income of my husband and myself, we purchased a new house in Perrysburg.

As an Ohio resident, I truly love this state, love my family and my students. I am proud to be an Ohio legal resident, a dedicated worker, and a skilled educator. I've taught five hundred American students, helping them learn Mandarin and Asian culture, opening their eyes and minds, creating their multiple perspectives. And the house I purchased has allowed me to establish a sense of security in Ohio.

My Chinese friends in Ohio include U.S. citizens, green card holders, work visa holders, and student visa holders. The reasons for which they came are different from mine. They came for better career opportunities, for better working environments, for better academic training, and so on. But like me, they came to the U.S. legally and they work diligently; Like me, they love America and American values; Like me, they contribute their talents to American companies, schools, and institutions they are part of.

If we are stripped of the right to buy property simply because our home country is considered an adversary of the U.S., that is not only unfair and discriminatory—it also labels any Chinese faces as suspicious enemies. This not only undermines our belief in American values and hurts our emotional connection to this land, but also brings immeasurable negative impact to our schools, communities, and companies we serve here. If a place is filled with fear, how can it attract people—regardless of their background—to come to study, work, or invest? I don't want to see a beautiful, peaceful, and friendly Ohio turn into a place of hostility and resentment. This will cause significant damage to Ohio's economy.

I totally understand the intention behind **Senate Bill 88**, which aims to address national security. But after some research, I am deeply concerned that these bills could inadvertently violate the Fair Housing Act. I worry that **Senate Bill 88** could harm innocent individuals like myself. The broad language of this bill risks unfairly impacting legal immigrants. The vague enforcement could undermine our rights as lawful contributors to Ohio and this country.

I respectfully urge you to consider my testimony and to vote NO on S.B. 88. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yiting