

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by Liu Liu
Testifying as Opponent

May 26, 2025

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

My name is Liu Liu, a resident of Solon, Ohio, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **opposition** to Senate Bill 88, also known as the **Ohio Property Protection Act**. While I understand the intent to protect Ohio's strategic interests, I believe this legislation is both economically harmful and legally problematic.

1. Immigrants Significantly Contribute to Ohio's Economy

Immigrant communities, including those from countries currently labeled as "foreign adversaries," are an **integral part of Ohio's economic success**:

- Asian American entrepreneurs in Ohio alone **own more than 18,000 businesses**, employ over 51,000 people, and generate **\$1.4 billion in payroll**.
- Immigrants are vital in **real estate, technology, healthcare, education, and manufacturing**—all sectors Ohio relies on for growth and innovation.
- Ohio's immigrant population contributed **billions in tax revenue and consumer spending**, driving economic activity across both urban and rural communities.

Restricting lawful property ownership by individuals based solely on their national origin or immigration status sends the wrong message to the many who have invested in our communities, bought homes, started businesses, and raised families here.

2. SB 88 Violates Federal Fair Housing Laws

This bill directly conflicts with the **Federal Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968)**, which **prohibits discrimination in housing based on national origin**:

- By barring individuals from certain countries from acquiring real property, SB 88 opens the door to **unlawful national origin discrimination**.
- The U.S. Constitution grants the **federal government exclusive authority** over matters involving foreign relations and immigration. States cannot supersede federal law in this domain.
- Legal scholars and courts have long recognized that such restrictions—when based on national origin rather than proven security risks—are unconstitutional and unenforceable.

Overall, this bill risks **economic harm, legal challenges, and social division** at a time when Ohio needs unity, investment, and growth. While national security is important, it must be

balanced with our core American values of **equal opportunity, due process, and non-discrimination**.

I urge this committee to consider the unintended consequences of SB 88 and vote **NO** on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

Liu Liu