

## **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 testify. I'm a dentist who has lived in Ohio for the past 25 years. I immigrated from South Korea, became a U.S. citizen, and have dedicated my career to serving the people of this state. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88.

SB88 is not just flawed policy—it is dangerous. Although the bill is framed as a matter of national security, its real effect is to cast suspicion on immigrant communities, particularly those of Asian descent. While it may appear on the surface to be aimed at the Chinese government, the truth is that its reach goes much further. It unfairly targets law-abiding individuals based on national origin and immigration background—something that should have no place in our laws.

As someone who chose to become a U.S. citizen, I hold deeply the values of fairness, equality, and justice. Legislation like SB88 violates those values. It creates a climate of fear and division, implying that people who look like me—or who came from the same part of the world as me—are somehow less trustworthy or less American, even after decades of living here and contributing meaningfully to society.

This bill does not enhance our safety. Instead, it opens the door to discrimination and profiling. It harms not only Chinese Americans and permanent residents, but all Asian immigrant communities—Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indian, and more—by reinforcing harmful stereotypes and institutionalizing distrust based on ethnicity or place of birth.

Many of us who came to the U.S. did so for the chance to live freely and contribute to our communities. We are business owners, health care providers, educators, and neighbors. We are part of Ohio. SB88 tells us, implicitly, that no matter how long we've lived here or how much we've contributed, we are still outsiders. That message is wrong, and it is hurtful.

Please do not let fear and foreign policy disputes lead to unjust laws at home. Reject SB88 and stand for the values that truly make this country strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyung Min, DDs