

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Kangming Ma

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. My name is Kangming Ma, and I am a Cincinnati resident. I am the business director of a U.S. company based in Ohio.

I came to Cincinnati immediately after graduating from McGill University with a doctoral degree in food science in 2001. I call Ohio home because of its welcoming environment, which embraces immigrants. The state's commitment to inclusion is evident through initiatives that recognize communities dedicated to integrating newcomers into civic, social, and economic life. Purchasing a home here was a significant step in my journey, allowing me to establish roots, raise a family, and contribute to the community. Ohio's diverse and inclusive spirit has truly made it a place where I can build a future.

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 88, a bill that masquerades as a national security measure while serving as a thinly veiled vehicle for racial profiling and anti-Asian discrimination.

SB88 is part of a disturbing trend across the country that exploits fear of foreign influence to justify racist and xenophobic legislation. This bill specifically targets Chinese citizens and Chinese Americans by seeking to restrict property ownership, academic collaboration, and other forms of engagement—based not on individual actions, but on national origin and ancestry.

Let us be clear: SB88 does not improve national security; it institutionalizes racial suspicion. It advances the idea that people of Chinese descent, or from other Asian nations, are inherently suspect or disloyal. This is the same logic that led to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Have we learned nothing from our own shameful history?

SB88 sends the message that Asians are forever foreign, no matter how long they've lived here or how deeply they've contributed to our society. It legitimizes suspicion based on one's last name, place of birth, or language spoken at home. This is not just unconstitutional—it is morally wrong.

We have already seen the consequences of anti-Asian rhetoric. Hate crimes against Asian Americans have risen sharply in recent years. Laws like SB88 fan the flames of prejudice and give cover to those who seek to harm our neighbors, colleagues, and friends.

If enacted, this bill would not only violate civil rights—it would stain Ohio’s reputation as a place of inclusion, fairness, and equal opportunity.

I urge this committee to reject SB88 and stand firmly against racial profiling, xenophobia, and fear-based governance. The state of Ohio must not follow the path of exclusion and paranoia.

Sincerely,
Kangming Ma