

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against the RACIST Senate Bill 88. I am Hanning Chen, a 25-year resident of Columbus Ohio, and I currently work at OCLC, an IT company supporting library needs around the world.

I'm in a unique phase of my life — I'm currently a Green Card holder, but awaiting naturalization to become a U.S. citizen. This transitional stage has made me reflect more deeply on my love for this country, my desire to contribute to its society, and my intention to call this land home. These values won't suddenly begin with naturalization — they've been with me all along. I've lived more than half of my life in this beautiful state, and I already feel like part of this great nation.

It was never by choice that I had to wait 25 years to become a citizen — the Green Card and naturalization process is simply far too long and complex. Long ago, I knew I wanted to build a life here and give my children the best opportunities the world could offer. That's why I believe it's fundamentally wrong to prohibit legal immigrants — like Green Card holders — from purchasing homes in Ohio.

Yes, we may still hold Chinese citizenship, but we do not represent the Chinese government — and the Chinese government does not represent us. On the contrary, many of us have crossed oceans to come to this country in search of freedom, opportunity, and a better life. We care about America's future and prosperity more than anywhere else.

What makes this bill particularly unconvincing is its justification in the name of national security. Banning Chinese citizens from purchasing homes near infrastructure, such as water towers, doesn't hold up to scrutiny. Living 25 miles away makes no real difference compared to living 5 or 40 miles away — unless one imagines scenarios as far-fetched as digging a tunnel. Furthermore, renters could live even closer with no restrictions. If national security is truly the concern, then propose something meaningful: such as enhanced background checks for foreign nationals seeking employment in sensitive areas like nuclear facilities or cybersecurity infrastructure.

Please oppose Senate Bill 88. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Hanning Chen