

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88
Submitted by Xiao Deng
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 Xiao Deng, 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 concerns about safeguarding Ohio's strategic assets, this bill takes an overly broad and harmful approach that will undermine our economy and send the wrong message to law-abiding immigrants who contribute so much to our state.

Ohio's population has either plateaued or declined in recent years. According to Census data and state demographic forecasts, many communities—especially in rural and post-industrial areas—are losing residents and struggling to maintain tax bases, public services, and housing demand. In an open letter to Ohio Congressional Delegation, from Ohio Business for Immigration Solutions stated: *“For our state’s economy to grow and compete, Ohio needs a robust workforce and policies that prioritize attracting and retaining talent. However, as you likely hear time and time again, labor shortages are the number one issue facing Ohio’s business community. Many of our members cannot find employees to hire, and without a viable alternative, their businesses face grave outcomes.”* Yet, Senate Bill 88 sends the opposite message. Restricting property ownership based on nationality undermines efforts to stabilize our population and attract the very workers and entrepreneurs Ohio so desperately needs for long-term economic growth.

Instead of turning away those who want to build a life and contribute here, Ohio should be doing more to welcome legal immigrants, entrepreneurs, and families who want to plant roots and create jobs in our state.

Overall, SB 88 is a blunt instrument that may do more harm than good. It risks economic loss, discourages legal immigrants from settling in Ohio, and sends a message that contradicts our values of fairness, inclusion, and opportunity.

I urge the committee to **oppose SB 88** and consider more targeted, legally sound ways to address legitimate national security concerns—without punishing communities who are helping to build Ohio's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

Xiao Deng