

**Testimony Against Senate Bill 88**  
**Submitted by: Jie Zhang**  
**Testifying as an Opponent**

May 26, 2025

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

My name is Jie Zhang; I live and work here in Ohio. I am a legal H-1B visa holder and a healthcare professional. Every year, I serve thousands of patients, pay my taxes, follow the law, and contribute fully to this state.

I first came to the United States as a graduate student. I've been fortunate to receive support from many Americans, and despite moments of discrimination, I have built a life here. I love this country because it represents fairness, opportunity, and rules of law. But this bill—House Bill 1 / Senate Bill 88—threatens those very values.

Let's be clear: this bill is discriminatory at its core. It targets individuals not based on actions or behavior, but purely on national origin. It does not distinguish between peaceful, law-abiding residents and bad actors. It assumes guilt by association and assigns suspicion based solely on where someone was born.

It also risks violating several core legal protections:

- The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits this kind of nationality-based discrimination.
- The Fair Housing Act protects all citizens and non-citizens—from being denied housing or property rights.
- The Fifth Amendment guarantees due process, which this bill undermines by imposing blanket restrictions with no individual review.

Beyond legality, I am deeply alarmed by the message this bill sends. It suggests that Chinese nationals—even those legally working, paying taxes, and contributing to society—are inherently suspicious. This kind of rhetoric fans the flames of racial profiling and xenophobia, and it risks stirring up anti-Asian hate

in our communities. We've seen this before in U.S. history, and the consequences have always been shameful.

The idea that this bill protects national security is misleading. Real security is not built by alienating peaceful residents, but by targeting threats precisely and lawfully. This bill does neither.

Moreover, it could damage Ohio's economy. Nearly 1,800 H-1B workers from countries affected by this bill contribute over \$186 million in payroll and \$5.7 million in state taxes each year. Over a decade, passing this bill could cost Ohio \$1.9 billion in payroll and \$61 million in tax revenue. Immigrant-owned businesses here employ almost 100,000 people and help drive economic growth—not take from it.

As someone who has given everything to build a life here, I urge you: do not pass a bill that trades civil rights for political theater. Do not let fear become a tool for discrimination. Stand for the Constitution, for fairness, and for the values that make America worth loving.

Sincerely,

Jie Zhang