

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and esteemed member so the Senate General Government committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony regarding the Senate Bill 88. My name is Xiaohong Feng and I am a working professional, and most importantly, a mother raising my child in the Indian Hill School district in Hamilton County, Ohio.

Indian Hill is one of the most highly regarded school districts in the state and the nation, ranked:

- #310 in National Rankings
- #8 among Ohio High Schools
- #4 in the Cincinnati Metro Area
- #467 in STEM High Schools nationally

One of the key reasons Indian Hill continues to rank so highly is its dynamic and diverse student body. Families from all over the world—including China—have made this community their home. This diversity enhances educational experience, enhances global awareness, fosters academic excellence, and contributes to a vibrant and rich school culture.

Chinese American students have achieved exceptional success in many fields - from a world swimming champion to recipients of the Governor's Awards for the Arts, to students recognized for DECA Chapter Achievement Awards and STEM excellence. This kind of multicultural achievement inspires all students to strive for more. Students motivate one another, learn from different perspectives, and rise to higher standards together.

However, if Senate Bill 88 is enacted, this progress will be threatened. These bills would make it harder for high-achieving international families to live in Ohio, depriving local students of the benefits of learning in a diverse environment. The impact would extend beyond immigrant families – it would diminish educational quality, damage school rankings, and ultimately harm Ohio's future.

1. These Bills Punish Law-Abiding Residents Like Me

HB1 and SB88 propose restrictions on individuals from so-called “adversarial” nations—such as China—from purchasing property or engaging in business in Ohio. While framed as national security measures, the bill unfairly impacts everyday people - law-abiding residents like me who live here, work here, pay taxes, and raise our families in this state.

2. They Threaten Our Children's Future

I chose to raise my child in Indian Hill because of its strong schools and inclusive, welcoming community. SB88 sends a very opposite message – the families like mine are not welcome and that our identity is a liability.

What message are we sending to the next generation when we single out families based on national origin? Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and supported city and state, has the equal right of education.

3. They Undermine Economic and Community Contributions

Like many Chinese American families, we work hard, we contribute to the economy, and we invest in our neighborhoods. These bills would discourage professionals and entrepreneurs from settling in Ohio and deter the very people who help drive innovation and growth.

Hamilton County and Ohio state have benefited enormously from immigrant entrepreneurship, international collaboration, and cultural diversity. SB 88 will turn away talent, investment, and goodwill—at a time when we should be welcoming all three.

In practice, these bills may violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, potentially exposing the state to costly legal lawsuits and reputational damage.

I respectfully request you to oppose Senate Bill 88 because it is discriminatory. It promotes racial profiling. It unfairly targets lawful immigrants and offers no real gain for national security. It harms the welfare of our children. It harms the economy of Ohio and weakens our community.