

# Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 88

Submitted to the Ohio Senate Education Committee

Yulei Zhang

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Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Yulei Zhang, and I am an Asian American parent living in Lewis Center, Ohio. I'm writing today in strong opposition to Senate Bill 88.

As a parent raising children in this state, I am deeply disturbed by the implications of this bill. SB88, under the guise of "fairness" and "neutrality," targets programs and initiatives that aim to create inclusion, understanding, and representation for people of all backgrounds-including Asian Americans like my family. In doing so, it sends a clear and harmful message: that acknowledging and addressing racism, discrimination, and cultural diversity is somehow dangerous or inappropriate.

This bill is not just misguided-it is racist in effect. It attempts to erase the experiences and contributions of marginalized communities from our classrooms and public institutions. It discourages honest discussion about history and identity. It suppresses the very kind of education that fosters empathy, critical thinking, and unity among diverse groups.

Moreover, the long-term consequences of SB88 will harm not just our students, but Ohio's future. Who wants to move to, study in, or invest in a state that openly devalues inclusion and diversity?

SB88 will make Ohio less attractive to families like mine, to talented students and professionals, and to companies that prioritize equitable workplaces and innovation. This is more than a cultural loss-it's an economic mistake.

Forcing our schools and institutions to conform to a narrow, sanitized view of reality hurts everyone. I want my children to grow up in an Ohio that is open, honest, and reflective of the real world-not one that pretends racism and inequality don't exist just because it's politically inconvenient to confront them.

Please do not allow this bill to move forward. Reject SB88 and stand up for the inclusive, diverse, and forward-looking future that all Ohioans deserve.

Sincerely,

Yulei Zhang

Lewis Center, Ohio

614-940-0589