

Guofen Yu
Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 88

May 25, 2025

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opposition to this bill before the committee.

My name is Guofen Yu, and I am a professor at University of Findlay, where I have had the privilege of teaching and mentoring hundreds of students each year. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88, which would prohibit certain legal residents from purchasing homes in Ohio based on their national origin.

This bill, while cloaked in the language of national security, sends a chilling message to immigrants and legal residents—especially those of Asian descent—that we are not welcome, not trusted, and not equal. As an educator with an Asian face, I have already experienced the subtle forms of discrimination, such as wary glances from strangers on the street, got called names, and funny stared. Just last month, an Asian American professor in LA was brutally attacked in a possible hate crime. I am afraid this may happen to me someday in Ohio because Senate Bill 88 threatens to amplify racial discrimination and deepen those prejudices.



Despite these challenges, I have poured my heart into my work. I have patiently guided students through their academic journeys, celebrated their successes, and received countless thank-you notes expressing how my teaching has impacted their lives. I am proud to call Ohio my home and to contribute to its future through education.

Senate Bill 88 violates the **Equal Protection Clause** of the U.S. Constitution and the **Fair Housing Act of 1968**, which prohibits housing discrimination based on national origin. It echoes the shameful legacy of the **1882 Chinese Exclusion Act**, a law rooted in fear and xenophobia that history has rightly condemned. Don't repeat the mistakes of the past.

I respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on Senate Bill 88. Let us stand for fairness, equality, and the values that truly make Ohio strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Guofen Yu