

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 88

Testifying as Opponent

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and esteemed members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Hongmei Li, and I am a resident of Greene County, Ohio. I am writing as a concerned citizen, educator, and community member to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88.

This legislation is deeply troubling with its potential consequences. It would unjustly restrict property ownership and rights based on national origin or perceived foreign affiliations, disproportionately targeting Asian American communities and other lawful immigrants. It echoes the dark legacy of the unconstitutional “Alien Land Laws” that once discriminated against Asian Americans—laws which history and the courts have rightly rejected.

Senate Bill 88 is discriminatory. It promotes racial profiling under the guise of national security, when in fact, it undermines the very values of fairness, equality, and opportunity that define our state and nation. It threatens the economic future of Ohio by discouraging foreign talent, scholars, and professionals from contributing to our academic institutions, businesses, and scientific innovation.

Lawful taxpayers—regardless of their national origin—deserve **equal housing rights**, including the right to own property, raise families, and live in peace. The sweeping and vague language of this bill risks casting suspicion on entire communities without justification, creating fear and division instead of fostering security and unity.

Rather than alienating residents and undermining civil liberties, Ohio should champion evidence-based, narrowly tailored policy solutions that genuinely protect our communities while upholding the constitutional rights of all individuals.

I respectfully urge you to reject Senate Bill 88. Let Ohio stand for justice, inclusivity, and economic vitality—not fear, exclusion, and discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hongmei Li