

I am writing to express my strong opposition to S.B. 88, which unfairly targets immigrant communities under the pretense of national security. These bills revive the discriminatory history of Alien Land Laws, which have been ruled unconstitutional and have long been used to suppress Asian, Muslim and immigrant communities. This unfortunately reminds us of the history of Japanese camp during World War II and the high risk of repeating dark era. America is beautiful because of its open warmth to different nationalities from all over the world, which is wielding all strength, wisdom, culture and diligence, sparking great creativity and courage. As a big nation, it is a sad trend to see discrimination and hatred hiding toward any group of people.

By restricting land ownership based on nationality, S.B. 88 fosters racial profiling and discourages immigrants from contributing to Ohio's economy. Furthermore, they may violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, opening the state to costly litigation. As small business owners, we are already concerned with the recent changes in immigration policies and hesitating about investing/improving our business.

As first generation of immigrants in USA, we came here not only for higher education, but also pursuing freedom which was not granted back home at that time. We all experienced student visa, work visa, green card and citizenship at different life stages. Majority of the Chinese immigrants stay in the US lawfully and dedicatedly. We raise our kids here; we obey the laws and pay for our taxes and carry out our duties. We love the USA, being here most of our life and our kids were born here and as citizens here, only knowing this country as their motherland. It is sad for discrimination to happen to ordinary people just because of political conflicts between countries. Even in court, a criminal has the right to defend himself innocently. But this Bill just directly assumes that everyone who has not converted to citizenship is highly likely a criminal. This is not the democracy which draws high quality immigrants here, instead, it is trying to scare off people and force them to move away from Ohio, where we used to describe as friendly, welcoming and kind Midwest hub. This is the place I have been living in for over 20 years, some heart breaking.

I urge you to STOP S.B.88 to ensure Ohio remains a welcoming state for all its residents. Thank you for your time.