

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 Mia Byarlay, and I'm a 17-year-old high school student living in Ohio. I'm here to speak against Senate Bill 88, not just as a student, but as the child of a Chinese immigrant.

My mom came to the United States legally, worked hard, paid taxes, and has always tried to give me a better future. This bill makes families like mine feel unwelcome. It sends the message that no matter how much we contribute, we're not fully trusted—just because of where we come from.

Senate Bill 88 unfairly targets people based on their background or national origin. That's wrong. It reminds me of stories I've read in school about when people were treated unfairly in history—and we're supposed to learn from those mistakes, not repeat them.

This bill won't make Ohio safer. But it will make it harder for families like mine to feel safe here. It will hurt the economy by pushing away students, scientists, and businesspeople who want to help make Ohio better.

I love this state. I was raised here. I want to grow up in an Ohio that believes in fairness and opportunity—not fear and discrimination.

Please vote no on Senate Bill 88. Let families like mine keep believing in the American dream.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Mia Byarlay

