

## Testimony Opposing Ohio Senate Bill 88

I strongly oppose SB88, a bill that is not only blatantly racist and xenophobic, but also legally and morally indefensible. The individuals proposing such legislation should be ashamed of targeting lawful immigrants under the false pretense of "national security." There is no justifiable reason to target individuals-especially those who are living here legally, working, paying taxes, raising families, and contributing to our communities. The clause requiring certain people to sell their homes within two years is not only cruel, it is outrageous and borders on state-sponsored discrimination.

Ohio is a state already experiencing population decline. According to Census data, over 30 counties in Ohio lost population between 2010 and 2020, with many young professionals leaving for states that are more inclusive and economically vibrant. Immigrant communities play a critical role in revitalizing local economies, filling workforce gaps, launching small businesses, and investing in real estate. A 2023 report by the American Immigration Council shows that immigrants in Ohio contributed over \$18 billion to the state's GDP and paid over \$3 billion in taxes. What kind of message are we sending if we turn around and say: "You are good enough to work here, but not to own a home"?

If passed, SB88 would send a loud and dangerous message that Ohio is not a place for immigrants, innovation, or economic growth. It will deter future investment and deepen the brain drain that already threatens Ohio's competitiveness.

As a mother of two U.S. citizen children who love this country, I am heartbroken. How do I explain to my children that we may have to move because of where their parents were born? This bill would codify systemic discrimination into law and teach a new generation that their American identity is conditional. That is not the America I believe in, and it is certainly not the Ohio we want to build.

I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and uphold the values of equality, freedom, and justice for all.