

Testimony in Opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 88

May 26, 2025

To: The Ohio Senate General Government Committee

Dear Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned United States citizen and an Ohio resident regarding Senate Bill 88, which seeks to restrict foreign ownership of real property in our state.

While I understand the importance of protecting our critical infrastructure, I urge you to reconsider the potential negative impact of this bill.

This bill has sparked widespread concern for its implications on multiple aspects of our society. Far from serving its intended purpose, the bill represents a direct threat to the values we strive to uphold. Below are key reasons why Senate Bill 88 demands opposition and reconsideration.

Discrimination Against Asian Communities

Senate Bill 88 disproportionately impacts Asian communities, promoting unwarranted social profiling that exacerbates racial biases. Policies that target specific groups foster division and reinforce stereotypes, undermining the unity of diverse communities.

Unfair Targeting of Lawful Immigrants

Immigrants who contribute positively to our nation through their hard work and dedication are unfairly targeted by this bill. Instead of recognizing their contributions, the legislation imposes unwarranted scrutiny, thus alienating individuals who have legally pursued pathways to citizenship. This not only harms individuals but also tarnishes our national image as a land of opportunity.

Fails to Enhance National Security

While Senate Bill 88 is framed as a measure to bolster national security, it falls short of achieving this goal. Targeting specific communities does little to address genuine security concerns and instead diverts resources away from more effective and inclusive approaches. National security is best achieved through collaboration and trust, not through divisive and discriminatory practices.

Harm to Children's Welfare

The bill also poses risks to the welfare of children, particularly those belonging to immigrant families. Increased social scrutiny and profiling create an environment of fear and instability, which can negatively impact their mental and emotional health. Children deserve to grow up in a society that nurtures their potential, free from the burdens of systemic discrimination.

Economic Impact on Ohio

Ohio's economy thrives on the contributions of immigrant communities, whose labor and entrepreneurship serve as vital pillars of growth. Senate Bill 88 threatens to undermine this economic foundation by discouraging inclusion and fostering an unwelcoming atmosphere. The resultant loss of talent and investment will have long-term repercussions for the state's prosperity.

Conclusion

Senate Bill 88 does not serve the interests of Ohio or its residents. Its discriminatory nature, failure to enhance national security, harm to children, and negative economic impact make it a policy that should not be enacted. We urge lawmakers to oppose this legislation and work toward solutions that promote justice, equity, and unity for all.

Sincerely,

Bo Zhan