

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 Wayne Byarlay. I'm a 55-year-old American citizen, a proud Ohio resident, and a husband to an immigrant from China. I'm writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 88.

My wife came to this country legally as a doctoral student, built a life here, paid taxes, contributed to our community, and helped raise our children. She is an honest, hardworking, and law-abiding person—just like the millions of immigrants who call this country home.

This bill unfairly targets people like my wife based purely on where they were born. It does not protect national security—it punishes lawful immigrants, sends a message of distrust, and fuels xenophobia. Let's be clear: discriminating against families based on national origin is not who we are as Americans.

I'm old enough to remember when laws like these were used to exclude entire groups of people from owning land or participating in society. We've seen where that road leads, and it's not a path we should walk again.

Ohio should be a place that welcomes hard-working individuals and families who want to contribute—not a place that turns them away based on fear or prejudice.

Senate Bill 88 is not just bad policy—it's a betrayal of American values. I urge you to vote NO.

Thank you for your service and for considering my perspective.

Wayne Byarlay

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Byarlay".