

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 88

Submitted to the Ohio Senate Education Committee

Hezhen Wang

May 26, 2025

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Hezhen Wang. I am an Asian American parent residing in Grove City, Ohio, and I write today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88.

As a parent raising children in this state, I am deeply troubled by the implications of this legislation. While SB88 is framed as promoting “fairness” and “neutrality,” in practice, it seeks to dismantle programs and initiatives that foster inclusion, understanding, and representation for communities like mine. It sends a harmful and unmistakable message: that efforts to acknowledge and address racism, discrimination, and cultural diversity are somehow inappropriate or threatening.

This bill is not only misguided—it is harmful. It attempts to erase the voices, histories, and contributions of marginalized communities from our public institutions. It discourages the kind of honest conversations about race, identity, and justice that are essential to building a more unified and empathetic society.

The consequences of SB88 would extend far beyond the classroom. It would make Ohio a less welcoming place for families like mine, for students seeking a meaningful education, and for businesses that value diversity, equity, and innovation. Choosing to suppress diversity and inclusion is not just a social failure—it is an economic misstep.

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 88

Forward-thinking families and employers will think twice about making Ohio their home.

I want my children to grow up in a state that confronts reality with courage—a state that values honesty, equity, and the full richness of its people’s histories and identities. We do our students and our future a grave disservice when we sanitize education to suit political convenience.

I urge you to reject SB88. Stand for a future that embraces diversity, promotes understanding, and prepares our children for the world as it truly is.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hezhen Wang

Grove City, Ohio