

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Dear Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and esteemed members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

As a legal resident who lives, works, and contributes to the state of Ohio, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 88. While I understand the importance of protecting national security and critical infrastructure, I am deeply concerned that SB 88 casts too wide a net—one that risks harming law-abiding individuals like myself who have made Ohio our home.

1. It Creates Uncertainty and Fear for Lawful Immigrants

As someone who is legally present in the U.S., I never expected that following the law, working hard, and contributing to my community could still put me at risk of losing basic rights—like the ability to own a home. SB 88 creates confusion and fear among immigrant communities by implying that our country of origin defines our loyalty, even when we have gone through all proper legal channels. That message is both unfair and un-American.

2. It Could Disrupt Lives and Property Rights

The bill's broad language and retroactive enforcement could impact property already owned by lawful residents or their families. Many immigrants work hard for years to purchase property as a sign of stability and investment in the future. To threaten that—based only on national origin—feels like punishment for something we cannot change.

3. It Damages Ohio's Reputation and Economy

Foreign-born individuals, including many from so-called "adversary nations," are deeply embedded in Ohio's workforce, educational institutions, and business community. Bills like SB 88 send a chilling signal that Ohio is not a welcoming place to live or invest in—hurting not just individuals like me, but the broader economy.

4. We Already Have Federal Security Tools

The federal government already has strong protections in place through agencies like the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS). Adding a vague, state-level restriction only causes confusion and increases the risk of discrimination without making Ohio safer.

In Closing, I came to this country in search of opportunity and safety. I have followed the rules and contributed positively to this state. But SB 88 makes me wonder if I will ever truly be accepted here. I respectfully urge the committee to reject this bill and instead work toward solutions that balance security with fairness and respect for individual rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.