

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88  
Submitted by: Cecilia Doyle  
Testifying as Opponent

May 26th, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against Senate Bill 88. My name is Cecilia Doyle and I am a concerned District 9 Ohio resident and 20 year old college student from a family of 9. I am testifying about how the proposed Ohio Property Protection Act has made me, my family and my community feel disturbed and unsafe due to major disturbances this bill would create for our economy, the discriminatory targeting of legal immigrants, and the undermining of Christian American ideals our country was founded upon.

Growing up, I have lived in various communities within the US, from Palm City, Florida, to Baltimore, Maryland and Middletown and now Maumee, Ohio. My favorite aspect about living in these places has been the amazing friends that I have made who have come from different corners of the world to live, work and flourish within the US legally. It has inspired me so much that I am now studying Global Studies and Theology at Marian University. These studies have been particularly beneficial and enriched through my relationship with the Chinese American community within Maumee Ohio, with Burmese communities within Ohio and Indiana, and by working with international students through my university's Global Engagement Office. As an American citizen who is a neighbor to these communities, I believe it is my civic duty to actively protest against this bill which not only harms these persons directly, but will trickle down and affect the lives of all Ohio and American citizens.

As it stands, Senate Bill 88 gives the Ohio government the power to effectively strip *legal* immigrants of their property rights based solely on their nationality so long as they are citizens of a country deemed a “foreign adversary”, determined by the secretary of state (Sec. 5301.256 (B)(3)). Beyond the blatant discrimination towards these legal immigrants (which also effectively impacts second-generation citizens), this bill would actively threaten the critical infrastructure, security, and production of our Ohio economy. Each year, Ohio grants about 12,000 new H-1B visas, including about 1,800 workers from impacted countries. These workers contribute approximately \$186 million in payroll and \$5.7 million in state taxes annually. Given that it typically takes around eight years to transition from an H-1B visa to permanent residency, the proposed bill would cost Ohio a cumulative \$988 million in payroll and \$30 million in state tax revenue over 5 years - and \$1.9 billion in payroll and \$6.1 million in taxes over ten years.

Additionally, Asian immigrants are not taking jobs from the local workforce— they are creating them. In Ohio, more than 9,500 Asian immigrant-owned businesses employ nearly 97,600 people and generate a combined payroll of \$3.3 billion. If this bill were passed, it would result in major losses to the economy and to the citizens whose lives are intertwined with immigrants whether they know it or not. Overall, Ohio is home to 600,000 immigrants, 63% of whom are of Asian heritage. According to the 2023 date, these immigrant communities contribute \$53 billion annually to the state's GDP. Not to mention their collective spending power of \$20 billion and payments of \$7.3 billion in taxes each year.

As a student, I'm also directly impacted by the profoundly positive effect that having international students has on my education and growth. It is critical to expand the context of one's mind through having exposure to different people with various backgrounds, ideas, ways of living and thinking, and even food. These students also participate significantly in the economy. Each year, over 10,000 Chinese students study in Ohio, contributing approximately \$570 million to the state's economy, \$380 million in tuition, and \$190 in living expenses.

To stress the economic importance of legal immigrant presence, especially from the countries currently present on the foreign advisory list, I want to conclude with a statistic. From 2021 to 2023, over 150,000 residents left Ohio, underscoring the state's population decline. In this context, international students and legal immigrants are increasingly *vital* for economic growth, workforce sustainability, and academic excellence.

Finally, this bill also corrupts the integrity of core American values which aim to allow for the rights to live here in America and express one's life of freedom and beauty. The bill targets legal immigrants who have earned the right to live here and to contribute economically, politically, culturally and even spiritually. I am a Christian Catholic, but recently I have also been going to bible study hosted by my local Chinese American community. This community is one that will be directly harmed by this bill. My friend's parents will be forced to sell their home and move out of Ohio. This will be a loss to Ohio, to my community, and to the religious freedom of Chinese legal immigrants.

I express my deepest gratitude to Chair Roegner and all the members of the committee for reading my testimony. I urge you, please do not allow this bill to pass. Your consideration of these matters is much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Cecilia Doyle