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SB 87 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
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Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 87, which would establish the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Commission.

The Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is a unique population in Ohio with unique needs and issues. Over the past year, we have seen an increase in racism against the AAPI community that needs to be combatted with awareness and understanding. This community typically does not receive as much attention as others, so this bill seeks to fill this gap in Ohio.

Senate Bill 87 establishes the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and appropriates $440,944 per fiscal year to support the commission and its duties. The Commission will be tasked with studying and raising awareness of the specific problems the population faces. It will provide this information to the public and to the state to ensure that the needs to the community are considered and met. It will also share information on the accomplishments and contributions of the AAPI community to the State of Ohio. The Commission will be supported by the Office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs which will provide critical information to the Commission. The office will be statutorily required to submit an annual report to the Commission to ensure that it is effectively accomplishing its duties.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 87. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.