

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs

For HB 2788

Compiled on: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:52 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 19, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Xiaobai Li

individual

Plano, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Meihua Yu

self

Coppell, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB 2788 which seeks to restrict citizens from certain countries from buying properties in Texas. This bill is discriminatory and would be a major step backwards in terms of fostering a welcoming and diverse environment in our state.

My family used to be big fans of Republicans while this Bill is a huge disappointment to hurt our feeling, not only for my family but also for tons of friends in Texas.

I strongly believe that everyone should be able to access the same opportunities when it comes to buying property and we urge our elected officials to reject this legislation.

Bin Yu

Self

Houston, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Haojun Wang

self

Houston, TX

I am a green card holder and I just submitted my citizenship application. The bills do not impact me directly and I support some of the GOP's policies. However, I feel deeply dismayed by HB2788. Bills like these make no distinction among individual people, their home countries, and their home country government, which is dangerous (bullet point second to last P1). The government and its citizens are vastly different. We came to this country to seek protection, build a better life by helping to build a better America.

Before we can become American citizens, we, Chinese immigrants, must hold a working visa and green card and remain Chinese citizens for at least 10 years, as required by law. The path of obtaining an immigrant visa and US citizen is a very painful and long-time struggle, often taking 10-20 years for most of the Chinese immigrants, because we have to be repeatedly vetted and we have to continuously prove that we are the needed assets to US in order to obtain green card.

While the bills claim to protect national security, the approach they take by lumping people and government together and targeting both individuals and governments is actually detrimental to national security. This approach creates a much larger enemy in foreign relations and damages domestic competitiveness by driving out talented immigrants based on national origin who contribute to US's competitiveness.

The bills punish immigrants from arbitrary countries not for our actions or decisions but because of our national origin, which we CANNOT change. The bills unfairly presume guilt based on country of origin. Unfortunately, HB2788 prohibits these law-abiding, future American citizens from buying residential property. This is the basic human needs of purchasing even a condo or simple house to live. I just cannot understand how the humble \$350,000 house we bought in Houston is related to national security in any way.

Bruce Bai

self

Austn, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their national origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Yiding Ju
Self and property management
San Antonio, TX

Dear Representatives Jacey Jetton, Cody Harris, and Angie Button,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2788, which relates to the purchase of real property by certain aliens or foreign entities. While I understand the need to protect our state's interests and prevent foreign entities from exploiting our resources, I believe this bill goes too far and could ultimately harm our state's economy and reputation.

HB 2788 would create a criminal offense for certain aliens or foreign entities that purchase or acquire title to real property in Texas. This provision unfairly targets certain individuals and entities based on their nationality or immigration status, rather than on any specific threat they may pose to our state's interests. This approach is not only discriminatory, but also potentially harmful to our state's relationships with other countries and our reputation as a welcoming and open state.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions appear to be overly broad and could potentially harm our state's economy by discouraging foreign investment. Texas has long been a hub for foreign investment, and by limiting the ability of certain aliens or foreign entities to purchase real property, HB 2788 would create unnecessary barriers to investment and could harm our state's economy.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and to work towards more balanced and fair policies that protect our state's interests while maintaining our reputation as a welcoming and open state. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Yiding Ju

Rick Zhang
Self
Denton, TX

Against discrimination!

Lily Yang
Self
Richardson, TX

Greeting, the committee and the committee chairman,

My name is Lily Yang, and I oppose the HB2788&SB147 bills. HB2788&SB147 have a negative impact on people with foreign passports' life. The bill discriminates against foreign people. The majority of people who are looking to purchase real properties are common people but they are all treated as a criminal who may pose a threat to the nation. A wise leader in society should set an example by promoting diversity and inclusion, addressing discrimination when it occurs, and advocating for equality for all individuals. HB2788&SB147 bills are not one of the acts that promote any equality. Please allow regular people to perform common business in the US as the constitution states. Please vote No to HB2788&SB147 bills.

Thank you for your time!
Please feel free to contact me via email at lilylilyzhu915@gmail.com should you have any questions.

Best,

Lily Yang

Xin Wen
self
Dallas, TX
against discrimination

bin hu
Businessman
Austin, TX

I am a Texas business owner and I am strongly against Bill 2788. This is completely unconstitutional and discriminatory against individuals from certain countries.

Dali Fu
self
Rosenberg, TX

As a Texas voter, I strongly oppose the HB2788. HB 2766 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origins, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th Amendment and the Federal Fair Housing Act. It is not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. I urge you to please refrain from sending this bill from a hearing at the committee.

Shilu Ni
Self
Plano, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Hai Dong
self
Austin, TX

This bill will negatively impact citizens of certain ethnic group and discrimination against them, I strongly oppose this bill in its current form.

Kai Cui
Self
Allen, TX

This bill is totally an anti-Asian sentiment and negatively affect all East Asians.

People should raise alarm against these kinds of proposals, which might further provoke hatred and violence against Asians.

Yuying Ma
Owner
Brookshire, TX

I strongly oppose discrimination against any individual or group of people based on their race, ethnicity, or national origin. Discrimination of any kind is unjust and undermines the principles of equality and fairness.

Chinese people, like all individuals, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and should not be subject to discriminatory practices or attitudes. It is important to promote a culture of inclusivity and respect for diversity in all aspects of society.

Ling Luo
Asian Americans Leadership Council
Richmond, TX

Strongly Oppose this bill for its discriminatory nature and threat to Texas Chinese residents, invoking Anti-Asian Hate!

kai yu
self
austin, TX

This bill is full of racism. It shall not be passed in house.

Huizhen Zhou
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I am opposing this bill for the following reasons

1. It's giving the governor too much power and violates the principles of democracy.
2. this is related the foreign affair, shouldn't we have Washington to deal with this than Austin? Since when a state governor has the power to overrule federal?
3. Remind you that on 4.11.2023, GOP Rep Michael McCaul has warned members of the Texas legislatures to keep their China-countering legislation focused on espionage and not to target Chinese immigrants, which include all green card holders, student VISA and working VISA. These individuals are presumed guilty under this bill, which violates the American principle and unAmerican.

I urge you all to vote NO to HB2788. Thank you!!

Haiyi Wang
Self
McKinney, TX

I am opposing

Jiachun Li
Self
Austin, TX

The bill violates the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. This bill is also unnecessary, and there are no compelling reasons to pass it. The bill proposes to regulate behavior that is already well-regulated by existing laws. I could only assume there's an intention of discriminating against certain people based on their country of birth or nationality behind this. The bill is also too broad and could be used to punish conduct that is not intended to be regulated by the bill. For example, it regulates the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, which is not only overly broad but also hard to prove and execute. Which led to another issue with this bill. The bill is too vague and does not provide clear guidance as to what conduct is prohibited. This could lead to arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement of the law.

Overall, I don't see how this bill could provide Texas residents a safer life in real life, and I don't see any value spending taxpayers' money on such a bill that encourages hate crimes and is against the Constitution. If this bill passed, it would absolutely be challenged in court. Again, Taxpayers' money will be wasted on this.

Natalie Lin
Self
Addison, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Shannon Lyu

Self, Attorney system analyst

Fulshear, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting these two bills from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Gary Lu

Self

Southlake, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006. Being an Asian American, I feel being systematically discriminated. Understood the intention of the bill, but there are many ways of monitoring the purpose or how the properties being used.

Wei Xu

Self

Allen, TX

I am opposing HB2788.

Shangrong Lyu

Self system analyst

Houston, TX

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Yi Collantes

Self

Round rock, TX

I oppose

Bing Wang

Self

Carrollton, TX

I am opposing HB2788. It's discriminatory.

Yanbing Huang

Aoxiang US Realty

Frisco, TX

Disagree

Jarlin Jia
DFW Chinese Alliance
Keller, TX

I oppose to HB 2788. HB 2788 would prohibit the sale of real property to governments and entities from certain countries – to be designated by the governor. In my opinion, this bill is harmful and dangerous to the Asian American community, and I urge you to not set these bills for hearing.

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place.

Jie Xu
Na
Allen, TX

I am opposing HB 2788

Zhaoyang Zhang, Dr
Self
Richmond, TX

I want to express my strong protest on this bill. This bill shows nothing but discrimination against Asian people for a few reasons
1 if the government thinks resident aliens are pushing up the housing price, why just forbid people from certain countries buying homes instead of ban all foreigners from buying homes?
2 if the government is worried about “security” why ban people from buying houses? There’s a huge difference between foreign government and private companies/normal people.
3 in case you don’t know, there’s 5-10years waiting time between a H1b visa and a green card. If people without green cards can’t even buy home, why do you collect taxes from them?

Jack Lu
self - engineer
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose to HB2788. HB 2788 would prohibit the sale of real property to governments and entities from certain countries – to be designated by the governor. In my opinion, e harmful and dangerous to the Asian American community, and I urge you to not set these bills for hearing.

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Baiyan Ren, Dr
Self
Richmond, TX

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Jing Sun
Self
McKinney, TX

That's so ridiculous, we are working so hard for this country, why limit us to purchasing a home for our family?
This is a totally racism! Will not make everything getting better, even worse.

Hang Xie
Self
Eules, TX

I am opposing HB2788. This is totally a discriminatory bill!

Joyce Han
Na
Plano, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Longfei Chen
self
houston, TX

I totally disagree this bill, which is discrimination.

Xiao Zhang, Dr.
self
Irving, TX

I oppose this bill as it represents racism and unequal rights.

John Tao
Myself
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the bill HB 2788. It's discriminate and unconstitutional. This is America, a free land, not an authoritarian country!! Please vote no to the bill HB 2788

Canping Liang

Self

Austin, TX

As a Chinese citizen who has lived in Texas for eight years and is awaiting permanent residency, I think the Texas HB 2788 bill is discriminatory and unfair. I express my strong opposition to this bill and believe that it may unfairly target Chinese individuals in the United States. It is important for legislators and policymakers to consider this bill's potential consequences and ensure that it upholds the principles of fairness and equal treatment for all individuals and entities.

Wendy Li

Self

Bellaire, TX

This bill definitely discriminates Chinese Asian who are living in Texas now. I strongly oppose to this bill!

Jing Dai

Sel

Cypress, TX

I oppose this bill as it creates discrimination

Eugene Yang

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is unconstitutional and discriminatory. Citizens and permanent residents shall have the same civil rights regardless their race, birthplace, nationality and religion

bin Zhang

Self

Prosper, TX

Dear Senate Members:

I am writing to you to express my strong disapproval of recently submitted proposals against the prohibition of foreigners and certain foreign entities from buying homes in the United States.

The claims of this proposal are unacceptable. First of all, it will be a serious racial discrimination, which will cause unfair treatment to foreigners and people of a particular country. We should be thankful that the land and real estate market in the United States is an open and inclusive market that allows people from all over the world to invest and buy real estate. This not only contributes to the development of the US economy, but also promotes international interaction and exchanges.

Second, the proposal would have a negative impact on the U.S. economy and international standing. Foreigners and entities are important players in the U.S. real estate market, injecting substantial capital and resources into the market. If foreigners and entities are prohibited from buying U.S. real estate, the U.S. economy will suffer, which will also reduce the U.S. international status and influence.

Moreover, the proposal would violate America's free market principles. The United States has always been an open free market, allowing free trade and free investment. Prohibiting foreigners and entities from buying real estate would violate this fundamental principle, which would lead to excessive government intervention and market distortion.

Therefore, I think this proposal is unacceptable. It will violate basic values and principles and damage the interests and international image of the United States. I urge you to oppose this proposal and support an open and inclusive real estate market where people everywhere have the opportunity to invest in and purchase real estate in the United States.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ricky Zhu

self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill.

Yang Jiao, Dr.

self, engineer

Allen, TX

I am a Texas resident and permanent residence of the United States. I am opposing HB2788/HB4006. It is unconstitutional and discriminate people by their country of origin.

Shawn Li

Self

Austin, TX

I believe this bill discriminates groups of people and is unjustly affecting law abiding individuals based on guidelines that those individuals have no control over.

Brandon Yuan

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB 2788. It is racist, discriminatory, and targeting innocent individuals of certain countries who's here in Texas legally and call Texas home. It is unfair and unconstitutional in our opinion! Any bill in this matter shall NOT target individuals who's a resident of the great state of Texas no matter their citizenship!

Xueyan Li

Myself

Houston, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006. This is a systematic discrimination upon people born in China, Iran, Russia and North Korea

Fuling Yang

self

Cypress, TX

Very strong discrimination.

John Pei

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this Bill. I work for this country, taxed by IRS and lawful resident in this State. I don't know why purchase a house is prohibited. To the law, I think everyone legally live in this country should have the right to buy a house, if only prohibit alien, why only China? How about other countries? This is not fair. It's against American spirit. We should never allow this to happen. We should vote those ones out who support this bill. They do not represent the people and try to break the country.

Kunpeng Zhang

Self

Plano, TX

US is a country with freedom and equality. How come such a discriminatory bill can be proposed. I would like the house to make sure you honor what the constitution granted all people living on this blessed land, and stop such an evil bill. The right of owning property should be applied to all living in this country, rather than excluding a certain group of people.

HUAFANG YU

self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

- 1) We want to protect individuals' rights, meaning individual persons who are in the U.S. legally. This includes business entities that are owned by individuals.
- 2) The laws cannot specifically name the countries of citizenship of individuals that are stripped of their rights. If they want to limit non-citizens' rights, the law must include ALL non-citizens, not just ones from specific countries.
- 3) We cannot allow laws that connect acts of a foreign country to individuals who are in the U.S. legally. This is what happened with Japanese internment during WWII. For example, a bill cannot limit rights of individuals identified as those who have citizenship from countries named in the Annual Threat Assessment report (like SB711). What a country does/did to get identified in the Threat Assessment report should not impact individuals from that country who are in the U.S. legally.
- 4) Another piece of insight based on current text which allows the governor to determine which country to be the adversarial one: Yes. My biggest concern is that 2788 could turn a national issue involving foreign relations into a state/local issue. It could potentially create impact locally based on politicians' election/campaign rhetorics. I think it is better to not release that power to the executive branch in the first place.

Qi Huang

Self

San Antonio, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Yan Zhao

Self

Prosper, TX

I oppose to this bill. It further provokes hatred and racially motivated violence against Asian Americans while not address the concern on homeland security in practical way.

As an immigrant from China, I lawfully came to US, earned graduate degree, got a decent job under working visa, bought a house and started my family in Texas while waiting for the process of the permanent resident to clear, which took about 8 years. A lot of young Chinese immigrants follow the same path as me and we all contribute to build the community. Now all of a sudden it becomes a criminal charge against us if we buy a house for the family to stay.

Meanwhile the total properties bought by Chinese nationals only counts 2% of all properties bought by foreigners in Texas. How is this bill going to address what it claimed to do?

Kuo Zhang

self

Eules, TX

My name is Kuo Zhang. I live in Eules, Texas. My baby boy just arrived in the world a month ago, so I cannot attend the testimony in person. However, I want to submit a written testimony to oppose HB2788. This bill impacts my family and my kids' future.

I'm a green card holder, and my husband is a U.S. Citizen. I'm originally from China and came here on a student Visa to get my master's degree. After finishing school, I'm fortunate to get a job here. My husband and I met in Dallas and married three years ago. Like most Americans, I grew up in one place and moved to another for work or school, found life here, and settled down. The only difference is the place I grew up in another country.

But this bill takes over my community and my family's right to buy a home and settle down in Texas based on my nation of origin. We understand the national security concerns behind the bill, but being a Chinese citizen alone doesn't mean we threaten national security. In fact, we all passed the homeland security background check to get our Visa or permanent residency.

Before I became a permanent resident, I was on an H1B work visa. If these two bills pass, it will impact many Chinese workers on working visas. In fact, all the major employers in Texas, for example, JP Morgan Chase, Toyota, Facebook, Google, and more, are Relying on the H1-B workforce. Chinese are the second largest H1B holders. If all the big national corporations can't attract and place part of their workforce in Texas, they will choose to invest elsewhere. So these two bills will hurt Texas's economy as well.

Our first kid just arrived a month ago. As a mother, I am also concerned about the trend this bill is setting. We are already experiencing an unprecedented rise in anti-Asian hate around the nation. Unfortunately, bills like HB2788 will perpetuate anti-Asian hate and discrimination against all Chinese in Texas. I don't want my kids to get treated differently just because of their Chinese heritage.

I hope the committee can stop and kill these two bills because it hurts individual hard-working Chinese Americans and also Texas's economy.

Thanks for the time,

Kuo Zhang

356 Arbor Ct, Eules, Texas,76039

Phone:386-882-6699

Linyu Huang

self

Cypress, TX

The power this bill authorize to the governor of Texas is too much. As a constituency, I don't think the governor can take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin. This is prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Bills like HB2788, SB147 is contradictory to all the laws I listed above. I urge our congressmen and senators do their work and the research before crafting a bill.

If the purpose of this bill is to protect national security. I think it's necessary to show evidences such as FBI reports to testify national security problems were raised because real property were sold to aliens or foreign entities. Otherwise, I don't think this bill can solve any national security problems but bring discrimination to immigrants who are originally from certain countries.

Naiyin Yu

Self

Plano, TX

I am opposing HB2788.

Cun Yang

Self

Irving, TX

I'm opposing HB2788 and HB4006!

Feng Zhang
Self
Houston, TX

This is absurd, what's the next move? Forbidden certain people to buy food? No humainty,
This is stupid, damage the US economy
This will be mocked by the people all over the world, elites will not enter the US anymore.
Society will be divided even more because of this
This will reflect inferior administrative intellectual level if it gets passed
Please give the people hope, give the USA hope.

Yiming Du
Self
Pflugerville, TX

anyone should able to buy a property if they could afford

Huaying Wang
Self
Mckinney, TX

I oppose. This bill could further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against Asian Americans.

Candice Huang
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose to this

Fugong Wh
Texas Instruments incorporated
Plano, TX

I would like to voice strong opposition to this bill as it is racist and discriminatory in nature. Federal law (Fair Housing Act) prohibits discrimination based on national origin or race. HB 2788 directly violates federal law and is an insult to the hardworking people that built this country. The United States was founded on the blood and sweat of immigrants who came here to build a better life for their families and contribute to a fair and just society.

Limiting the opportunities of certain immigrant groups is against everything this country stands for and will create a slippery slope for racism and bigotry to thrive here. History tends to repeat itself and we can draw direct parallels between what is happening now and what happened in Nazi Germany 80 years ago - the Jews became scapegoats of the nations's problems and laws were initially passed to take away their civil rights and forfeit their property. This led to increased violence against the group which ultimately resulted in the Holocaust, one of the most disturbing human tragedies we have ever witnessed. Now, with bills such as HB 2788 and related rhetoric, we are seeing the same patterns in our own country, with innocent Chinese and other groups of people becoming the scapegoat for America's problems.

We are One Nation but our diversity is what makes us great. Please do not let this country devolve into radical extremism and I implore you to oppose this unjust and bigoted bill.

Wensi Song
Self
Richmond, TX

I strongly oppose to HB 2788. Here are the reasons. HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Qingding Wang
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. This hurts everyone in the state and it brings hate to asian and whole community.

Chen Shi
Self
Round Rock, TX

I object this bill. US is a great country promoting equality, fair and freedom. This bill apparently opposite US value for people who come and willing to contribute and be part of this country. Please reconsider it.

Chelsea Zhang
self
ALLEN, TX

I am writing to oppose this bill as it would further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against certain nationalities. Also, permanent residents don't include VISA holders, permanent residents = green card holders.

Xin Liu
Myself
Grand Prairie, TX

I am against HB2788, housing right is human right. Any sense of prohibition is against human right, especially this bill give the governor the absolute power to decide which entitle or individual can or can't buy a property at Texas, that's dictated, only happened in communist country. We need to protect our democracy! I am strongly against this bill!

Heidi He
Self
Plano, TX

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wei Li
Self engineer
Plano, TX

Hi, I oppose the bill HB2788.thank you.

Qiye Yang
Myself
Grand Prairie, TX

I am strongly against this bill! That's not right to give this much power to the governor! Not fair for the people from China, Iran, Russia and North Korean.

Sylvia Huang
Self
Plano, TX

I am a data science manager at Toyota North America, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas house bill HB2788. The bill would grant the state governor too much power to designate a country for safety concerns and could lead to severe penalty and criminal charges of innocent individuals. National security is a serious issue that should be investigated and determined by federal agencies, not left to the sentiments or whims of a state governor by just consulting with relevant parties. By giving too much power to the state governor, it could lead to dangerous and arbitrary decisions being made without proper investigation or oversight.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the provision in this bill that would allow United States intelligence or law enforcement agencies to determine individuals with close ties. The definition of "closely tied" is very vague, and could potentially lead to innocent people being punished for the decisions of their friends, family members or associates.

Last but not the least, the bill generates many uncertainties that will scare away immigrants and investment, which will ultimately hurt our local economy. The bill could lead to unintentional consequences against Asian community and inadvertently targeting innocent members of the Asian community.

I believe that it is important to ensure equality of all immigrants, and to ensure that any limitations on those rights are based on solid evidence and clear criteria instead of fears. The provisions in this bill do not meet those standards, and could potentially do more harm than good.

I urge you to oppose Texas bill hb2788. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Huang

Ruoyun Qiu
Self
Grapevine, TX

I oppose to hb2788

Jian Wu
Self
Plano, TX

Dear Law maker,

I vote against this case for the following reasons.

1. If the origin of the concern is the purchase of the property close to sensitive area are such as government property or military base, this goes way to far and unnecessary
2. This approach based on nationality will start to criminalize people based on their origin, it is a VERY BAD start and can have unintended consequences. US made similar mistake 100 years ago, Chinese back then suffered and we should NOT make similar mistake again.
3. US, unlike many places in the world, especially when compare to Russia/China/Iran/North Korea, we allow much freedom that are not available in those countries, such as freedom of speech/religion and the capital move, US is composed of and built by people of immigrants, we want to attract the best and not deter them to come to this great country as long as they agree and will abide by US Constitution and laws. This send bad signal to the world that US is not necessarily better than these countries as we hold similar standard, have similar laws of restriction.
4. If there is real concern, there could be ways to discuss in detail that both the US concern and people's complain be addressed and reached a mutual agreement. Even I am a US citizen, I feel this is really relevant to me because of my origin. This could also applies to people from other countries in east Asia or South East Asia.

Thanks for your consideration,
Jian Wu

Yujing He
self
Plano, TX

I strongly oppose. This bill will refrain new, young, talented legal immigrants of the targeted countries from moving to Texas which is a huge economic loss to Texas. Even worse, this bill could further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against Asian Americans.

Lixiang Guo
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 2788

Guisheng Yu
Individual
Frisco, TX

Strongly object to HB2788 and HB4006.

Yu Liu
Self, Staff
Grapevine, TX

I oppose to hb2788.

Tracy Zoi
Self, patent agent
Plano, TX

Oppose!

Tianchi Zhang

Self

Allen, TX

This bill has the potential to escalate racial tension and fuel hatred towards Asian Americans. It is imperative to acknowledge the current climate of heightened discrimination and xenophobia against Asians and other minority groups. This legislation could further provoke violence and discrimination, and its implementation could have disastrous consequences. It is essential to promote tolerance and unity instead of fostering division and hate. Therefore, I urge lawmakers to reconsider the implications of bill HB2788 and work towards creating an inclusive and equitable society for all.

Wen Chen, Dr

self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 2788.

This bill is an overreaching and discriminatory piece of legislation that violates the fundamental property rights of individuals. All individuals have the right to own and use their property as they see fit, so long as they are not infringing on the rights of others. This bill, however, would allow the governor to designate certain individuals as a group and restrict their property rights, without any evidence of wrongdoing on their part.

Furthermore, this bill sets a dangerous precedent of allowing the government to arbitrarily target and punish certain groups of individuals without due process. This is a clear violation of the principles of equal protection under the law and the right to a fair trial.

Moreover, this bill fails to address the root causes of any problems it seeks to solve. If the government has evidence of illegal or harmful activities being carried out by certain individuals, they should pursue legal action against those individuals, rather than using a blanket restriction on property rights.

This bill could have a negative impact on Texas in the long term in terms of attracting people to the state. Many people prioritize the protection of their individual property rights, and a bill that restricts those rights could be seen as a negative for potential residents or businesses considering a move to Texas.

Additionally, this bill could potentially harm the reputation of Texas as a business-friendly state. If the state is perceived as allowing the government to overreach and restrict property rights, businesses may be hesitant to invest in the state, fearing potential interference or restrictions on their operations.

Overall, this bill is unjust, discriminatory, and sets a dangerous precedent for the violation of individual rights. It should be opposed and defeated.

Lindsey Sun

CPA

Melissa, TX

oppose to hb2788/hb4006

Xiang Li

Self

Frisco, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Hui Yang
Self
Round Rock, TX

This is the dumbest thing I have ever heard. How would buying a property be a criminal offense. Please use resources to actually fight something that matters and is actually a criminal offense

XIN HU
SELF
GRAND SALINE, TX

I strongly support this bill. As a U.S. citizen and army veteran, I strongly support HB 2788 and requesting this act to not allow all Chinese citizens with any visa (F, H, and etc) to buy houses and lands in Texas.

Jiaming Huang
self
Plano, TX

I oppose to hb2788/hb4006

Qiao Lu
Self
Round Rock, TX

I object to HB2788. How can buying a property become a criminal offense? Just because it's bought by foreign entities? This is totally a discrimination bill.

Quanquan He
Self
McKinney, TX

I oppose. This bill could further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against Asian Americans.

Xuening Rawson
Self
Allen, TX

I oppose to hb2788/hb4006! It would encourage discrimination in the future for our Asian community.

Tingting Zhang
Self
Jarrell, TX

I strongly disagree this HB2788. It violates the fairness of American spirit and will stop Texas from growing in a long term run. Even aliens contribute a lot to Texas growth. It's not fair to violate human rights to live and have normal life.

Lisa Prothro
Myself
Lewisville, TX

I oppose to hb2788/hb4006

Janet Liu
Self
Dallas, TX

I strongly opposed the bill. HB 2788 has the possibility to back door a discriminatory practice against certain community. 2788 could turn a national issue involving foreign relations into a state/local issue. It could potentially create impact locally based on politicians' election/campaign rhetorics. I think it is better to not release that power to the executive branch in the first place.

Jiang He
self
Coppell, TX

As a concerned citizen, I would like to express my strong opposition to HB2788, a bill that targets the purchase and acquisition of real property by certain aliens and foreign entities. This bill, if passed, would not only violate fundamental constitutional principles but also undermine equal housing rights for all individuals, regardless of their nationality. The United States has long prided itself on being a nation that welcomes and embraces diversity, and this bill would only serve to perpetuate discrimination and foster an environment of hostility and prejudice. Moreover, the introduction of this bill is contradictory to our nation's core values of fairness, equal opportunity, and justice for all. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of this legislation and to work towards creating policies that are more inclusive, equitable, and reflective of the American values we all cherish.

Naixin Yang
Self
Allen, TX

I oppose. This bill could further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against Asian Americans.

Scott Puff
Self
Dallas, TX

I strongly opposed the bill. The governor/executive branch shall not be grant such power of naming enemy state in case of potential campaign purpose.

YU CHENG
self
PLANO, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee.

Jing Zhang
Self
Frisco, TX

I oppose to hb2788/hb4006. This is absolutely discrimination based on nationality. It will not only get rid of the basic human right to have a home and own private property from the people of these nations who work hard in US and pursue American dream, but also increase the discrimination to the US citizens who originally from these nations, which will lead to significant adverse effects to the equal rights of these people.

Shili Li
self
Allen, TX

I oppose. This bill could further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against Asian Americans.

Christina Wu
Self
Dallas, TX
Strongly oppose

Xiangnan Shi
self, Data Scientist
Cypress, TX

This is 100% racial discrimination. This bill means an individual might not be allowed to buy a home just because they're from a certain country, while people from other countries can buy a house with no restriction. They should be treated equally. To be fair, if you want to ban foreign countries from buying properties, just ban all foreign countries.

Wei Hong, Dr.
Self, postdoctoral fellow
HOUSTON, TX

My name is Wei Hong, and I am a resident of Houston. I testify against HB2788.

The statement made by the authors claiming that the bill will not affect US citizens, permanent residents, or legal visa holders is incorrect. Firstly, the bill only exempts US citizens and permanent residents, whereas legal visa holders are still citizens of their respective countries and therefore are impacted by this bill.

Secondly, the process of obtaining permanent residency in the US for legal visa holders can take several years, even for highly skilled individuals such as successful professors or engineers who may apply for an EB1A visa. The more common EB2 visa may require a waiting time of at least four years. During this period, these individuals remain citizens of their home countries and are thus affected by the bill. It is unreasonable to assume that successful professionals, who may have been living and contributing to American society for several years, should not have the right to obtain property or pursue their American dream during this waiting period.

Lastly, the bill is entirely redundant. The CFIUS and Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act have already addressed the potential federal securities concerns at the federal level and state level separately. Currently, there are no specific cases that cannot be addressed by present regulations, and new legislation is unnecessary.

In summary, the bill will create a significant barrier for those who are waiting for permanent residency, including legal visa holders who are vital contributors to the US economy and society. The authors' claim that this bill will not affect legal visa holders is inaccurate and needs to be corrected. It is my belief that this bill would have a negative impact on our community, and I urge the committee to vote against it.

Xiaohong Du
Self
Plano, TX

Strongly oppose SB 2788.

Heng Ji
Self
Sugar land, TX

I am strongly against this bill.
This bill will create fear and hatred towards Chinese American and Asian community in general. Anyone with a Chinese surname or Asian Face will live in fear in this state if this bill passes. They will have to provide additional documents to prove they are not Chinese citizen when purchase properties in Texas and still face disadvantage just because the seller want to avoid potential issues when sell their houses.
Average Chinese, especially those flee from China for an American dream, should not be punished by their government's behavior, let alone the majority Chinese immigrants living in Texas entered this country legally. They hold no threat to this state.

Hugh Li, President
Austin Chinese-American Network
Austin, TX

On behalf of Austin Chinese-American Network, a non-profit organization of >1000 members, we oppose HB 2788 in the strongest term for the following reasons: (1) This bill gives the state Governor undue and unlawful power to designate a country or countries to be within the scope of this bill. This is a violation of US federalism that separates and checks the power of states and the federal government. Texas is not a sovereign nation, and thus cannot wade into foreign relations that is specifically under the jurisdiction of the Federal government per the Constitution; (2) The idea that the government can strip a legal resident of the US of their constitutional rights because of their relations in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity to a person of a ruling political party of a designated country is discriminatory, unconstitutional and simply repulsive. This is cruelty to the extreme and cannot stand a court challenge; (3) the power of the State government to levy felony charge to parties in an open and fair real property transaction is repulsive and unprecedented abuse of power. We urge you to reject this bill.

Zhongming Yu
Self
FRISCO, TX

I oppose the HB2788 bill, it is unfair for people from the listed countries, who obey the American law and Texas law, work diligence, contribute tax for the federal government, however want settle down and buy a real estate like a house or apartment, for her/his family like baby, or kids attending school.
This bill is full of discrimination for ordinary people from these listed countries, with full skepticism, and not based on facts, to suppress a group of people. It violate the basic human rights and justices.

Brynden Wain
self, engineer
Katy, TX

HB 2788 as currently written seeks to take away property rights from companies and individuals based on their country of origin, which is prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. This discriminatory bill unfairly targets individuals who are attempting to establish a life in Texas and harms local and state economic development.

Yi Cheng
self, manager
Katy, TX

HB 2788 as currently written seeks to take away property rights from companies and individuals based on their country of origin, which is prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. This discriminatory bill unfairly targets individuals who are attempting to establish a life in Texas and harms local and state economic development.

Jiaxi Zhang

Self

Plano, TX

Strongly opposing to this unconstitutional bill. Any attempts to ban individual legal residents/ immigrants rights in property purchase and ownership is illegal and will cause discrimination against the local Asian/Chinese community. Please refrain from passing this bill. Thank you.

Ling Wang

self

Austin, TX

this bill is unconstitutional and discriminating! stop it!

Jingzhou Wang

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I oppose the HB2788 proposal because it violates the federal Fair Lending Act, which explicitly prohibits discrimination in housing sales based on an individual's race, skin color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. The complex exemptions and "owner-occupied" restrictions will require the descendants of legal property owners to provide proof of birth or green cards when submitting offers, resulting in new immigrants facing unequal treatment when purchasing a house.

The existing federal CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States), the 2018 Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA), and the 2021 Texas "Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act" have effectively protected Texas' national security. To date, no official list of suspicious buyers has been provided. This proposed bill lacks a factual basis. If passed, it would require Texas to establish an agency to review covered real estate transactions, adding unnecessary complexity and cost to legal and harmless real estate transactions.

Furthermore, this proposed bill restricts the free development of real estate in Texas, hindering foreign companies from establishing factories and starting businesses in Texas, creating job opportunities, and ultimately causing the local economy to decline. This is detrimental to Texas' economy. The proposal also deprives property owners of their right to freely sell their property, which is a cornerstone of American core values and a fundamental civil right protected by law.

Moreover, the HB2788 proposal will only incite hatred towards innocent people, provoke political division, and cause social unrest. Such a useless proposal should be firmly opposed.

Xueling Xu

self

San Antonio, TX

violates equality for all, and certain people can deprive of rights because of coming from certain country

Ke Zhang

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2788. This already violates the federal Fair Lending Act, which explicitly states that discrimination in housing sales cannot be caused by an individual's race, skin color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability.

As a supporter of the idea of equal rights, one of the most powerful tools that we have to fight against discrimination is the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This landmark legislation prohibits discrimination in housing, employment, education, and other areas on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It has been instrumental in advancing the cause of civil rights in America, but we cannot become complacent and assume that the work is done.

Today, we still see disparities in areas of housing, healthcare, and criminal justice that disproportionately affect people of color and other marginalized groups. It is our duty to use the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to fight against discrimination and to demand equal treatment and opportunities for all.

Xiangyu Si

self marketing strategist

PLANO, TX

The proposal is un-American, discriminatory, xenophobic, and unconstitutional. We only ask for the right to be equally protected and treated under American law, no less no more.

hailong jin

DFW Chinese Alliance

Allen, TX

This bill violates the fundamental principles of freedom, fairness, and equality. It discriminates against certain individuals and entities based on their nationality or country of origin, which is a clear violation of the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. Furthermore, it undermines the United States' long-standing reputation as a land of opportunity and an open society.

This bill also imposes unnecessary and burdensome restrictions on the real estate market, which could have adverse effects on the economy. By preventing foreign investment in the real estate market, the bill could lead to a reduction in property values, fewer transactions, and less revenue for the state. It also sends a negative message to the global community, potentially damaging international relationships and the state's reputation as a welcoming and prosperous place.

Moreover, this bill fails to provide any compelling reason for such restrictions. While national security is a legitimate concern, this bill is not targeted at specific threats or risks, nor does it provide any evidence that the purchase of real property by foreign entities or individuals poses a significant threat to national security.

In summary, this bill is unjust, discriminatory, and unnecessary. It threatens to undermine the values of freedom and equality that our nation holds dear, while also damaging the economy and harming our international relationships. I urge the legislature to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that promote equality, fairness, and economic growth

Loretta Wang

self. homemaker

Bryan, TX

I oppose the 2nd Committee Substitute of Senate Bill 147.

Yanyu Liu

Self, house maker

Austin, TX

I'm opposing HB2788/4006!

Anna Dai, Dr
self
SanAntonio, TX

My opinion on HB2788 (posted in the Austin Chinese Community Alliance against discrimination group): (1) It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a sovereign country and does not have constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries. (2) If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents in the United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate? For example, if my father is a member of the Chinese Communist Party and lives with me in the United States, what does his party membership have to do with my life here and my constitutional rights? (3) Making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. Who gave them such authority? If that is not an abuse of power, then what is?

Xiangyin Guo
Self
Plano, TX

I oppose to hb2788

Hongmei Li
Self
Allen, TX

I oppose. This bill could further provoke hatred and racially motivated violence against AsianAmericans.

Young Kang
self
katy, TX

I am against this bill HB 2788 as it is a bill to take away the human right granted by the federal government and also a discrimination bill based on the individual's nation of origin. It is evil.
HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.
Again, I am against this bill HB 2788.

Ling Wang, Business owner
AALC
Bellaire, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Sophia Liu
Self
Plano, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Katherine Li
Self
Plano, TX

I'm against this bill as it's racist and discriminatory in nature. Some limitations for every foreigner equally are fine, but you can't draft a bill for a specific nationality. I came to this country because I believe it's fair for everyone and offers a lot of opportunities. And I believe most people do. But I feel shame living here now because you're changing it, changing the environment and changing the equity and the big America dream.

Xiaoping Li
Self
College Station, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because it is unconstitutional and violates human rights, will cause further damage to our community and economy. Texas is my home, I love this state. But with uprising bills like this will hurt our future in this land. I adore any policy that enhance national security in government level but not on individual level. Each individual should be treated equally regardless race, gender, country of origin, gender, ethnicity etc. there might be a few cases of violations that impose risk for national security, but with large populations of people from these countries, what is the percentage? In 70s, because a few case of fire hazard events for children's sleepwear. Law regarding flame retardant added to children's sleepwear, mattress and upholstery furniture etc. these harmful chemicals cause lots of health issues and environmental damage . Until Jan 2020, California pass law to stop adding these chemicals. A few other states followed Ca to stop using these chemicals. So now my family can buy item without it. But it causes us 50 years of damage and correct the law. Enough is enough, we have seen enough Asian hate during COVID pandemic period, we don't want to have another fire in our backyard. Please stop this bill for our children and our loved ones and our country. I believe there are multiple ways to protect our nation, and I will fully support that.

Thanks,
Xiaoping

Jim Smith
Medical Center
Houston, TX

I am strongly opposing HB2788 and HB4006, thanks!

Bo An, Mr
Self
Allen, TX

I'm against this Bill. This is the same as the discriminating Chinese Exclusion Act in 19th century . It will promote hatred on all Chinese looking people because it imply all Chinese are from "enemy " country and all Chinese all enemy. It's a Cold War mentality . It will for sure make all Chinese looking people unsafe . There are numerous attacking on Chinese people already in US.

YI CAI

self

Frisco, TX

I understands the idea of protection the land security behind the bill. However, this Bill only focus on certain foreign countries but not all land purchasers which place an assumption that the buyers from those countries are suspicious. Such open discrimination to citizens of those countries will hurt the value of equality badly. I am working in AI area and our models is under scrutiny for not using gender, race to bias the prediction result. The author of the bill brutally equals those foreign country citizens to high risk threat and that is intolerant. I cannot allow my kids live in such a toxic environment and I don't want to my kids to be treated differently just because their race. I am highly opposed to this bill and if it becomes a law, I will move out of Texas to a better place without such a discrimination.

Alice Yi

Asian American Leadership Council

Austin, TX

On behalf of our AAPI community, we against this bill. HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Aqing Yao, Pastor

Grace Valley Chinese Church

college station, TX

I totally object this bill. It doesn't harm Communist party but push Chinese people back to the Communist party.

Will Li

Self

Frisco, TX

This bill is unconstitutional, stop the HB2788.

Yongbin Chu

self

Austin, TX

I would like to strongly oppose to this bill as it is racist and discriminatory in nature, which directly violate federal law and is an insult to the hardworking people that built this country. The United Sates was founded on the blood and sweat of immigrants that came here to build a better life for their families and contribute to a fair and just society.

Limiting the opportunities of certain immigrant groups is against the foundation this country stands for and will create racism and bigotry. We can draw direct parallels between what is happening now and what happened in Nazi Germany 80 years ago - the Jews became scapegoats of the nation's problems and laws were initially passed to take away their civil rights and forfeit their property. This lead to increased violence against the group which ultimately resulted in the Holocaust, one of worst tragedies in the history of human beings. Now, with bill HB2788, we are seeing the same patterns in our country, with innocent Chinese and other groups of people becoming the scapegoat for America's problem.

Diversity is what makes America great. We are one nation and every one is created equal by God. Please do not let this unjust and bigoted bill pass, and let this country devolve into radical extremism.

Honggao Xu
SELF & Application Engineer
CEDAR PARK, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Liping Huang, Ms.
self
Houston, TX

I oppose to HB2788.

Hongyi Zhu, Dr.
self
San Antonio, TX

My opinion on HB2788: (1) It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a sovereign country and does not have the constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries. (2) If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents in the United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate? For example, if my father is a member of the Chinese Communist Party and lives with me in the United States, what does his party membership have to do with my life here and my constitutional rights? (3) Making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. It is a significant abuse of power.

Mingyuan Wei, Dr.
self
Round Rock, TX

Dear Chairman and Committee members,

I am writing this to oppose the HB2788, which is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and impractical.

As like other discriminatory bills, such as SB147, HB2788 singled out an individual from a certain country and prohibit him to buy a property. This is unconstitutional and discriminatory. Furthermore, HB2788 will grant the governor and the state the power to determine whether a person can buy a house or land, based on the absurd rules that are stated in the bill. For example, if someone lives in Texas and buys a house. But somehow the state realizes his father is a member of CCP, and then the state, according to the bill, will seek penalties against this person, including taking away his house and a \$250,000 fine. This is against a basic human right. This person cannot be assumed guilty just because his father's membership. Such assumed-guilty situation is going to make the state of Texas a Nazi government.

More importantly, HB2788 is of a \$6,000,000 fiscal note, which will cause taxpayers' money on an impossible task to track every single property purchase in Texas. If I were you, I would rather be spending the 6 million dollars on state IT security system. Recently I received a letter from Texas Department of Public Safety that my driver licensed information was leaked. A replacement driver license was sent to someone in another state. After almost 4 months, DPS sent me a letter to notify me. I don't know how much money I lost from my bank account, and I don't know what my driven license has been signed up for yet. This is the security you should focus on to protest Texan's personal information from leaking. I believe 6 million dollars would help; do you agree with me?

Please vote against the HB2788 and be the representatives for Texans.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Mingyuan Wei

Wenhao Liu
self
Lewisville, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Ling Zheng
myself
Austin, TX

Position: oppose. Though this bill doesn't seem to impact me, I feel uncomfortable because it incites fear. I am sharing two stories. When I was in the school, one classmate from California said he didn't talk to his dad. His dad voted for Trump. He voted for Hillary. It is not uncommon to see opposite political view within a family. That your parent is CCP doesn't mean you are same as your parent. Second story. in 1906s China, it was politically wrong to be rich. My grandpa was persecuted because he was rich. My uncle was the best student in our county. He was denied to college because of his father. This bill has similarity with what happened in 1960s China.

Finis Cross
self. homemaker
Bryan, TX

I oppose the 2nd Committee Substitute of Senate Bill 147.

Hongtao Liu
self
Katy, TX

Dear Legislators,

Asian community strongly objects to this bill. It is too vague to define relationship with foreign entities. It is the government's duty to identify national security treats. This bill unnecessarily transfers government's failure, if any, to civilians. We are tax payers. We shouldn't pay for a mechanism to discriminate against ourselves. The bill underestimates the discriminative effects on civilians like us. All people around us will know and require us to disclose identify/nationality just because of Asian background. It unnecessarily restrictes people and good investment in the US as well. We have CFIUS, we have foreign agency laws at Federal level. Texas could do a lot more if those are not sufficient, but this bills picks up a most unnecessary way of transferring this burden to civilians, and unnecessarily restrictes our business development.

Tianci Wang
Self, student
Fort Worth, TX

I voice my strong objection for this bill. This bill is highly discriminative in nature, and will stoke the anti-asian/immigrant hate and discrimination that is already at all time high in Texas. As an international medical student who is trained in the local Texan community and aspire to become a family physician here, bills like this make me feel unsafe and guarded when serving the local community. Although this bill is supposed to be targeting foreign governments, majority of us students have 0 connection with China's government, and it's precisely us, residents and international students/workers, who are paying for the price of this bill. In the community, people do not check your passport/connection with government before they start developing discrimination and biases against you. Having an Asian face is all that is needed. Bill's like this is exactly what fuels these sentiments. Therefore, I strongly object this bill.

Lee Huang, Ms.
self
Houston, TX

i oppose HB2788.

Junwen Dai
self
The Woodlands, TX

The United State of America is formed by aliens from different countries. They just come here at different times. European arrived the US at earlier time. Then people from other country came later. We should not make a law to block later comer to come and settle down here. The diversity make this country great. Everyone is proud of this. We should create an environment to protect diversity instead of against this. As a new immigrant, I know how difficulty of settlement in the US. We should not add more barrier to future immigrants. Because they will love this country and contribute to this country as all other US citizens. I strongly against this law. Thanks,

Weitao Han, Mr.
self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB2788.

Juan Yi
Self
Sugar land, TX

I am opposing HB2788, this is racial discrimination against certain people group

David Han, Mr.
DWT AUTO LLC
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 2788.

Bill Zheng
BTIC America Corp.
Houston, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Ye Yuan
self
Katy, TX

restrict the rights to purchase a house based on national origin will not help in anyway on criminal offense but only introduce discrimination and gives too much power to the government! Unless someone prove to be guilty, the person's rights cannot be taken away just solely based on where they came from. This bill is based an assumption that all people from specific country are criminals, this is non-sense. This will also lead to a super powered government who can take over properties from individuals by interpreting the bills in different ways. It is a threaten to me as a simple citizen. I urge you please vote NO to this bill.

Hengrui Qu
DFWPAC
Plano, TX

This is Hengrui Qu, Texas resident. I am against HB 2788, since there is unconstitutional wording about individuals. Thank you!

Changxing Cao
self
Pflugerville, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006. This is not ethically to treat foreign as your enemies, we paid tax, legally work and not deserved to be treated like this.

Yingjue Huang
Self, Accountant
Austin, TX

I'm writing to oppose again the HB 2788.

I'm a Chinese American. Over twenty years ago, when I came to America as a student with dreams of a better life, the United States was a peaceful, inclusive, and free country that valued equality. However, with the recent surge of discriminatory bills that go against the constitution, I can't help but question if this is still the America I had hoped for.

My child will grow up in a society where discrimination against other ethnicities is becoming more prevalent. Although born in the United States, my child used to take pride in their Chinese heritage. Nowadays, they are faced with daily negative reports about China and are questioned about their identity by their peers at school. I worry about the discrimination they might face in society because of their ethnicity, which makes me question if America is still the country I once believed in.

HB 2788 seeks to grant the executive branch the authority to revoke property rights from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin. This is likely in violation of the United States Constitution (14th Amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (Article 1, Section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Moreover, targeting specific foreign countries with this bill could escalate state policies into international incidents. It is neither wise nor prudent to let short-term political sentiment interfere with long-term law or policy making. As such, I believe it is best if we avoid opening this door in the first place.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to refrain from setting this bill for a hearing at the committee level. By doing so, the State of Texas and its local Asian American community would be better served and protected from potential harm arising from this legislation.

Meifang Yu
self
Pearland, TX

Totally racial and discrimination, nobody should be treated like this because of their national origin. I strongly oppose to this bill.

Elyn Zhang
Self, realtor
Allen, TX

I oppose hb 2788, it violates human right and fair housing

Yan Wang
Self
Katy, TX

My opinion on HB2788: (1) It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a separate country and does not have constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries. (2) If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents in the United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate? And who/which organization can make fair judgment for so many different situations? Or will the Texas government judging fairly which is highly suspicious ? Public/ especially Asian community would be threatened and terrified by all these so called judgment? (3) Making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. Who gave them such authority? If that is not an abuse of power, then what is?

Elaine Zhang

Self

Katy, TX

This Bill HB2788, especially the provisions that target all foreign companies and related individuals in designated countries by the governor is very inappropriate, discriminative, and harmful to the companies and related individuals that do legal business in the US.

This discriminatory bill unfairly targets some groups of people in Texas based on their nationalities, creating great disturbances in the Asian American communities. This will not only harm the legal companies and related individuals of the designated countries that will be designed by the governor, but also the US citizens in these countries, as they might become backlash targets, and US citizens may find that they have to provide extra documents for proof while purchasing real properties in the future.

This bill will also hurt the local business in Texas, especially those in the Asian community, as we all know which counties will be targeted as the designated foreign counties. This will close the door of Texas to the businesses, investments, as well as talents from the listed countries designated by the governor. He shouldn't have the authority and arbitrary power to remove legal foreign individuals and companies's right to purchase real estate in the US, it is a violation of the constitution in the US.

Yuan Xie

self

Austin, TX

I would like to strongly oppose to this bill as it is racist and discriminatory in nature, which directly violate federal law and is an insult to the hardworking people that built this country. The United States was founded on the blood and sweat of immigrants that came here to build a better life for their families and contribute to a fair and just society.

Limiting the opportunities of certain immigrant groups is against the foundation this country stands for and will create racism and bigotry. We can draw direct parallels between what is happening now and what happened in Nazi Germany 80 years ago - the Jews became scapegoats of the nation's problems and laws were initially passed to take away their civil rights and forfeit their property. This led to increased violence against the group which ultimately resulted in the Holocaust, one of the worst tragedies in the history of human beings. Now, with bill HB2788, we are seeing the same patterns in our country, with innocent Chinese and other groups of people becoming the scapegoat for America's problem.

Diversity is what makes America great. We are one nation and every one is created equal by God. Please do not let this unjust and bigoted bill pass, and let this country devolve into radical extremism.

Jun Lu
SELF
Houston, TX

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2788, which targets Asian Americans, particularly Chinese Americans, with discriminatory measures. This bill is not only unjust and unfair, but it goes against the principles of equality and justice that our country was founded upon.

HB 2788 is discriminatory on several levels. Firstly, it singles out Asian Americans for treatment that is different from that of other citizens, which is a clear violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution. Secondly, it creates a hostile environment for Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans, who may face increased scrutiny and suspicion due to the provisions of this bill. This could lead to racial profiling and harassment, which is unacceptable in any society.

Furthermore, this bill is based on unfounded stereotypes and misinformation about Asian Americans, particularly those of Chinese descent. It perpetuates the idea that Chinese Americans are somehow more likely to engage in espionage or other nefarious activities, which is simply untrue. Such stereotypes have been used to discriminate against Asian Americans in the past, and they have no place in modern society.

I urge you to reject HB 2788 and any other legislation that seeks to discriminate against Asian Americans or any other group of people. We must stand together as a nation to promote equality and justice for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Jun Lu

Hua He
Self
Sugar land, TX

The proposed legislation prohibiting certain aliens or foreign entities from purchasing or acquiring title to real property is discriminatory and violates the fundamental rights of individuals to own property regardless of their nationality or origin. Every person, regardless of their citizenship or country of origin, should be allowed to exercise their right to property ownership. Restricting property ownership based on nationality or country of origin is a form of discrimination and contradicts the principles of equality and fairness. Moreover, it could harm Texas's reputation as an open and welcoming state, discouraging international investment and cooperation.

In addition, It is unjust to create a criminal offense for the purchase or acquisition of real property by certain aliens or foreign entities. Therefore, I strongly oppose against the bill.

Ling Ge, Dr
Self
Plano, TX

I oppose this bill. It is discriminatory and unconstitutional. It grants unlawful power to the governor to designate countries as enemy as he wishes.

Dingyi Ma

N/A

san antonio, TX

I oppose Bill HB2788. First, It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a sovereign country and does not have the constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries. Second, If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents in the United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate? For example, if my father is a member of the Chinese Communist Party and lives with me in the United States, what does his party membership have to do with my life here and my constitutional rights? Last but not least, making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. Who gave them such authority? If that is not an abuse of power, then what is?"

Geng Ni

self

Arlington, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Alec Zhang

Self

Southlake, TX

I oppose to hb2788.

Yunfan Yu
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed House Bill 2788, which would prohibit certain foreign individuals or entities from purchasing real property in the state of Texas.

First, this bill would rely on nonpublic information from US intelligence, instead of through legal due process to convict an individual, which would open a very dangerous gate. There is no way to guarantee or oversee that the process is fair, and it is reminiscent of the Gestapo in Nazi Germany. This kind of violation of due process should not be tolerated in our country.

Furthermore, the provision in Sec. 5.252 (4) (D) which bans individuals who are within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity is overbroad. While the bill does not explicitly state it, all the background information points to the fact that it primarily targets China and the CCP. The CCP has 96 million party members—how many people are there including their parents, children, and spouse? Some of those relatives legally reside in the US and are not involved in the party or that government in any way. This provision would unfairly punish innocent family members for something they have no control over.

Finally, this bill would give the governor too much power to designate a country to ban. Foreign affairs are not the business of a state. This is a federal responsibility and should not be taken lightly. Giving the governor the power to ban certain foreign individuals or entities from purchasing real property in Texas would set a dangerous precedent and could lead to other states following suit, causing even more confusion and conflict.

In summary, House Bill 2788 is a poorly thought out and dangerous piece of legislation that violates due process and unfairly targets innocent individuals. I urge you to oppose this bill and ensure that Texas upholds the principles of fairness and justice for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
?Yunfan Yu

Yan Ke
Merry Media, Inc
houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB2788 because it is a ridiculous and terrible bill that will hurt thousands of innocent Chinese immigrants.

1: 5.252(4)(D) and 5.252(3) are unfair and overbroad. It prohibits purchase of real property by party members and their relatives to 1st degree of consanguinity (e.g. spouse/parent/children). Just because someone has a close relative who serves in the government or is a party member, does not mean that the relative (spouse/parent/children) works for that government, or should be subject to the ban. For example: the CCP has 96 million party members – and they will have relatives (spouse/parent/children). Not all party members are hostile to the U.S. – nor are their relatives. (in comparisons: India's Bharatiya Janata Party has 180 million members).

2: this bill can be dangerous as it almost invites a governor to designate a country to ban/prohibit.

3: The enforcement of the bill is too difficult, and the likely benefit is slim to none. The ones who will be impacted are the individuals and companies (because of guilt by association).

This is a bill that would not result in real or likely benefit to the State, but will cause significant usurpation to the real estate industry, individuals, and companies. Do we want a democratic America to look more and more like a dictatorial, authoritarian China? To take away a person's basic rights without evidence; to implicate family members?

Zhongyu LI

Myself

Manvel, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

WEI DUAN

self

Katy, TX

I'm opposing HB2788. I'm a Chinese citizen who obtained an advanced degree in STEM from an ivy league and now working with H1B visa here. 2 years ago, I moved here from NYC because I want to try the lifestyle here. I work hard, play a key role in a tech company that contributes to Texas economy. I also donate to local charity.

The harm of this bill is not in the details. However the terms are articulated, to some people it basically conveys this signal: Regardless of the contribution you've done, senators are thinking about making you guilty for buy a house here, just because you are a Chinese. The harm is done not to me, but to Texas, because I have plenty of places to go to. I can move back to NYC, I can go to bay area, etc. But to Texas, it punishes talented aliens who work hard, it shows the law is made not in favor of the state's economy and equality, but out of McCarthyism.

I like Texas, I'll feel sorry about the state if the bill is passed. Truly, how will you compete with CA and NY if you push talented immigrants away?

Bo Zhou

Self/

Austin, TX

I am opposing HB2788.

Fang Liu, Ms

self

Houston, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries - which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Andy Li

Slef

San Antonio, TX

I string oppose against this bill because it violates equality for all, and certain people can be deprived of rights because of coming from certain country. We can not choose which country to born and our equal rights should not be affected by original nationality. Buying a house is part of American dream and freedom/equality is American spirit and value! Such bills will eventually destroy US reputation in the world.

Mingqiu Luo

Self, research geophysicist

Sugar land, TX

I'm strongly opposed the Bill. It's discrimination. It's unconstitutional. Anyone should not be treated differently just because his/her origin.

Yuan Liu
Family
Pearland, TX

This is racist! We come work in US because we don't really like Chinese government, you name all the Chinese are potential harmful for the US government without exceptions is totally racist.

He Kang
self
san antonio, TX

I oppose HB2788. First, It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a sovereign country and does not have the constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries. Second, If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents in the United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate? For example, if my father is a member of the Chinese Communist Party and lives with me in the United States, what does his party membership have to do with my life here and my constitutional rights? Third, making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. Who gave them such authority? If that is not an abuse of power, then what is?"

Wei Li, Dr.
Self
College Station, TX

HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against Texan immigrants. We, the people in Texas value a sense of individualism and self-reliance. We take responsibility for our own decisions and outcomes. We take ownership of our lives. However, Section 5.252 (4)(D) of HB 2788 does not respect lawful immigrants' belief in this basic American spirit.

This bill scoffs at lawful immigrants by saying that: if you are an American citizen, when your parents do something wrong, you will NOT be punished because this is America; but if you are a permanent resident (Green Card holder) or on a lawful visa, and your parent works as a municipal public servant in your home country, you will NOT be allowed to buy a home; you will be fined for more than \$250,000 if you buy it.

HB 2788 damages Texas real estate property market by imposing bureaucratic procedures and burdens on free market transactions. In addition, it will cause devastating damage to the Texas economy by injecting fear into the immigrant communities. Tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and professionals who came to Texas as an immigrant are now serving Texas industries such as oil, gas, medical, aerospace, information technology, agriculture, construction, and service. There are more than 400,000 immigrant business owners in Texas, accounting for 51% of all business owners in Houston, 27% in Dallas, and 20% in Austin. Immigrant-led Texan households account for \$113 billion in after-tax spending power. We don't want to put this prospect into risk.

To conclude, HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against hundreds of thousands of immigrants who work, live and invest in Texas. It will cause devastating consequences to Texas economy.

p.s. Section 5.252.(2)(C) and Section 5.252.(4)(B)(i) seem to form a logical "infinite loop." The authors might need to double check it.

Mengdi Li
self
College Station, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Banu Guli
Self, Insurance broker
Cypress, TX

This bill, HB 2788, not only lacks a thorough study of the United States' immigration system, but it also violates constitutional protections. Specifically, this bill would allow the executive branch to take away property rights from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, a practice that is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution's 14th Amendment, the State of Texas' Constitution's Article 1, Section 3a, and the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Furthermore, the hostile language in this bill is already having a negative impact on innocent individuals. For example, there is a Korean child who was recently attacked by other kids who said, "Go back to your country and we will bomb your country." This kind of rhetoric only serves to fuel hatred and intolerance towards people who may look or sound different.

The visa and green card application processes are already highly regulated and involve extensive personal background checks. It can take decades to obtain a green card due to the strict rules and requirements, including tax and vaccination records.

If there is evidence of visa or green card holders buying homes and posing a threat to national security or the housing market, the FBI or other professional reports should be made public to inform voters of the need for this bill.

If lawmakers truly want to remove the majority of good people from Texas, they should refund all the taxes that these individuals have paid over the years of living in Texas.

Jack Gao
Sunet Realty Group
Allen, TX

HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against Texan immigrants. We, the people in Texas value a sense of individualism and self-reliance. We take responsibility for our own decisions and outcomes. We take ownership of our lives. However, Section 5.252 (4)(D) of HB 2788 does not respect lawful immigrants' belief in this basic American spirit.

This bill scoffs at lawful immigrants by saying that: if you are an American citizen, when your parents do something wrong, you will NOT be punished because this is America; but if you are a permanent resident (Green Card holder) or on a lawful visa, and your parent works as a municipal public servant in your home country, you will NOT be allowed to buy a home; you will be fined for more than \$250,000 if you buy it.

HB 2788 damages Texas real estate property market by imposing bureaucratic procedures and burdens on free market transactions. In addition, it will cause devastating damage to the Texas economy by injecting fear into the immigrant communities. Tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and professionals who came to Texas as an immigrant are now serving Texas industries such as oil, gas, medical, aerospace, information technology, agriculture, construction, and service. There are more than 400,000 immigrant business owners in Texas, accounting for 51% of all business owners in Houston, 27% in Dallas, and 20% in Austin. Immigrant-led Texan households account for \$113 billion in after-tax spending power. We don't want to put this prospect into risk.

To conclude, HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against hundreds of thousands of immigrants who work, live and invest in Texas. It will cause devastating consequences to Texas economy.

p.s. Section 5.252.(2)(C) and Section 5.252.(4)(B)(i) seem to form a logical "infinite loop." The authors might need to double check it.

Yitao Ding
self
Southlake, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House and Senate,

I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the bills currently being considered, namely HB2788, HB4006, and SB 147, which seek to ban citizens and companies from North Korea, Iran, Russia, and China from buying property in Texas.

As a legal immigrant and permanent resident of Texas, I believe that such bills are contrary to the fundamental American values of freedom and equality. Discriminating against individuals based on their nationality or country of origin is not only unjust but also goes against the principles of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal protection under the law for all individuals.

Moreover, as a taxpayer and contributor to the local economy, I am concerned that such bills could negatively impact the state's economy and my own financial interests. By discouraging foreign investment and causing a decline in property values, these bills could have serious consequences for everyone living in Texas, including American citizens.

I also believe that these bills could discourage talented and hardworking people from seeking opportunities in Texas, which goes against the American dream of achieving success and making a better life for oneself and their families. As a legal immigrant, I know firsthand the importance of an inclusive and welcoming environment for immigrants and their contributions to the state's economy and society.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider alternative solutions that uphold the principles of equality and fairness, while also addressing any legitimate concerns about foreign investment in the state. Discriminating against citizens of certain countries goes against American values, harms the economy, and discourages talented and hardworking people from seeking opportunities in Texas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Yitao

Jinqiang Liu, Dr.
Self, Data Scientist at NOV
Houston, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Zhaosong Zhu
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I object the HB 2788 bill with the following reasons:

1. The HB 2788 bill is discriminatory towards lawful immigrants in Texas and undermines their self-reliance. Section 5.252(4)(D) of the bill prohibits these individuals from purchasing a home if their parent works as a municipal public servant in their home country, imposing fines exceeding \$250,000 for non-compliance. This violates the American value of taking responsibility for our own decisions and disregards the contributions that lawful immigrants make to the state's economy.
2. HB 2788 will negatively impact the Texas real estate market by introducing bureaucratic procedures and hindering free market transactions. It will also create fear among immigrant communities, causing devastating consequences for the Texas economy. Texas relies heavily on immigrant professionals, business owners, and households who contribute billions of dollars to the state's after-tax spending power. HB 2788 risks discriminatory practices against hundreds of thousands of immigrants who live, work, and invest in Texas.

Shuting Chen

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Qin Gu

self marketing manager

Austin, TX

Testimony Against HB 2788

Dear committee members, my name is Qin Gu, representing myself, and I oppose HB 2788.

I graduated from UT Austin 4 years ago and started to work here since then. I am now an H1B working visa holder and work as hard as anyone else in this city. I love Texas, love the opportunities and vibes Austin provides, I pay my tax, help the city to grow, and respect all laws, but after reading HB 2788, I am questioning myself: Am I an alien has the same real and personal property rights as a United States citizen? Probably not.

HB 2788 gave the governor the right to foreclose my property. And since US-China relationship is breaking, Chinese citizens will be deeply impacted by this. The bill is purely discriminating against all Chinese people, assuming all Chinese are associated with the government, no matter what background we have.

If passed, HB 2788 would be the reason that many high-tech employees and PhD students choose not to stay in Texas. They will definitely turn down Texas as their home and turn to other states because they are truly equal, and truly enjoy freedom.

I have already heard my friend, who was preparing to move to Austin for his new job as a software engineer, is recently reconsidering other states to live in because he does not want to be a second-class resident here. And for people like me, am I an alien who enjoys the property right? Maybe moving to other states will be the ultimate solution.

In closing, I ask that you vote no on HB 2788.

Thank you!

Qin Gu

Weijie Ou

self

frisco, TX

I am writing to express my objection to HB 2788

Frank Zhang

Self

Spring, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Jasmine wang

self

plano, TX

HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against Texan immigrants. We, the people in Texas value a sense of individualism and self-reliance. We take responsibility for our own decisions and outcomes. We take ownership of our lives. However, Section 5.252 (4)(D) of HB 2788 does not respect lawful immigrants' belief in this basic American spirit.

This bill scoffs at lawful immigrants by saying that: if you are an American citizen, when your parents do something wrong, you will NOT be punished because this is America; but if you are a permanent resident (Green Card holder) or on a lawful visa, and your parent works as a municipal public servant in your home country, you will NOT be allowed to buy a home; you will be fined for more than \$250,000 if you buy it.

HB 2788 damages Texas real estate property market by imposing bureaucratic procedures and burdens on free market transactions. In addition, it will cause devastating damage to the Texas economy by injecting fear into the immigrant communities. Tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and professionals who came to Texas as an immigrant are now serving Texas industries such as oil, gas, medical, aerospace, information technology, agriculture, construction, and service. There are more than 400,000 immigrant business owners in Texas, accounting for 51% of all business owners in Houston, 27% in Dallas, and 20% in Austin. Immigrant-led Texan households account for \$113 billion in after-tax spending power. We don't want to put this prospect into risk.

To conclude, HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against hundreds of thousands of immigrants who work, live and invest in Texas. It will cause devastating consequences to Texas economy.

p.s. Section 5.252.(2)(C) and Section 5.252.(4)(B)(i) seem to form a logical “ infinite loop.” The authors might need to double check it.

Chen DING

self

College Station, TX

I am writing to argue against HB 2788 and discuss the negative impact it will have on immigrants in Texas. As Texans, we value individualism, self-reliance, and taking ownership of our lives. However, Section 5.252 (4)(D) of this bill disregards the basic American spirit of our lawful immigrants.

This bill unfairly targets lawful immigrants, particularly those who have worked hard to obtain their green card or lawful visa. It punishes them for the actions of their parents, which they had no control over, while American citizens are not subjected to the same punishment. The bill will make some permanent residents NOT be allowed to buy a home but be fined for more than \$250,000 if they buy it.

This provision suggests that only American citizens are entitled to the American Dream of homeownership and that lawful immigrants should be penalized for their parents' actions.

As a member of the Texas community, I urge you to reconsider this bill and remove the discriminatory provisions that target lawful immigrants. We should be striving to create a more inclusive and equitable society, where everyone should have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. Penalizing lawful immigrants in this way is not only unfair, but it goes against the values.

HB 2788 damages Texas real estate property market by imposing bureaucratic procedures and burdens on free market transactions. In addition, it will cause devastating damage to the Texas economy by injecting fear into the immigrant communities. Tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and professionals who came to Texas as an immigrant are now serving Texas industries such as oil, gas, medical, aerospace, information technology, agriculture, construction, and service. There are more than 400,000 immigrant business owners in Texas, accounting for 51% of all business owners in Houston, 27% in Dallas, and 20% in Austin. Immigrant-led Texan households account for \$113 billion in after-tax spending power. We don't want to put this prospect into risk.

I implore you to take a stand for all Texans, including our immigrant population, and reject HB 2788 in its current form. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yinru Huang
Myself Attorney
Dallas, TX
I oppose HB 2788

Benqiang Guo
self
Austin, TX
I oppose HB 2788

Ying Ouyang, Mrs
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am against to bill HB 2788 totally! It discriminates some lawful immigrants simply by where they came from originally, and what their parents are doing. This bill is against the American spirit and will break many lawful immigrants' American dream.

Nabila Mansoor
Rise AAPI
Sugar Land, TX

Under the guise of addressing national security concerns, instead this bill ultimately targets and harm (whether intentionally or not) communities composed of hard-working immigrants, refugees, and citizens on the basis of national origin. I am deeply concerned that Asian, Iranian, Russian, and other communities are being singled out and denied the ability to do what every other similarly situated individual in America has the right to do: build a life and put down roots in the place that they call home. These bills, if enacted, would create additional barriers based exclusively on a person's ancestry or country of origin, all in contravention of the rights afforded to them under federal law. I strongly urge you to oppose this bill, and other bills that discriminate against individuals and families based on their national origin or ancestry. We encourage you to meet with potentially impacted community members, including our organizations, and speak out against all bills that end up targeting and harming the individuals and communities that make Texas and our country stronger.

Yumin Chen
Self
Boerne, TX

My opinion on HB2788 (posted in the Austin Chinese Community Alliance against discrimination group): (1) It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a sovereign country and does not have constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries.(2) If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents inthe United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate?For example, if my father is a memberof the Chinese Communist Party and lives with me in the United States, what does his party membership have to do with my life here and my constitutional rights? (3) Making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. Who gave them such authority? If that is not an abuse of power, then what is?"

NIANNIAN CAI
self
Cedar Park, TX

I am opposing HB2788. This bill discriminates a broad range of people with certain entities without request of evidence. Most of them are normal people and positively contribute to the community of Texas and US. They shouldn't be discriminated only based on their original nationality and without request of evidence.

Xuechun Li

Self, Financial Controller at Real Estate Developer

Spring, TX

It's discriminatory and unfair to prevent and punish innocent immigrants and non-immigrants from purchasing real estate properties in Texas due to their Nationalism. It is not only destroying the foundation of "American Dreams" but also imposing barriers to hurt Texas real estate market and the overall Economy.

Ping Cui

Self

College Station, TX

HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against hundreds of thousands of immigrants who work, live and invest in Texas. It will cause devastating consequences to Texas economy.

BO SHUANG

self

Missouri City, TX

I am opposing HB2788. Talented international students (and even US students) will no longer come to Texas to seek job opportunities. It will be a big loss for Texas. Eventually, tech companies and many companies' R&D centers will move out of Texas. And besides all of that, it's wrong to create an unfair and dangerous environment for a certain group of people. Supporting this bill is like dipping your hands into these people's blood. I have lived in Texas for 12 years now. I am happily married with two kids. If this bill passes, my family and I will leave Texas.

Li Tian

self

College Station, TX

I oppose HB2788 because it creates very negative effects to all Asian looking people in Texas, no matter what their immigration status is. There are many better ways to protect our country's security. There is no need to use such a discriminating method!

Niloufar Hafizi

Self; nonprofit professional

Katy, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I urge you to not pass HB 2788 out of committee. HB 2788 gives the governor overly broad discretion to designate countries subject to the property acquisition ban. The governor does not have to follow any procedures beyond consultation with the DPS director and Homeland Security Council; what "consulting" entails is not defined and could be peremptory.

Furthermore, this bill makes it too easy for the comptroller to begin investigations into individuals suspected of violating the property acquisition rules. Subjecting individuals to an investigation should have standards to avoid abuse of power, arbitrary investigations, and investigations based on discrimination. Even in cases where no violations are found, an individual or small business who must comply with an investigation faces a burden.

This bill's ostensible purpose is security. Security is important to all Texans, but this bill is not a solution to any security problem. Please do not pass it out of committee without more time for public comment and refinement.

Jack Gao

Sunet Realty Group

Allen, TX

This bill is discriminatory and unconstitutional! You should be shamed of yourself!

Yinwen Li
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

It violates equality for all, and certain people can deprive of rights because of coming from certain country.

Katherine Xu
self
College Station, TX

I am opposing this bill because it will do harm to the U.S. economy and violate our constitution. Any law should not be based on the origin of the nationality.

Bob Zheng
self
College Station, TX

I am opposing this bill because it will do harm to the U.S. economy and violate our constitution. Any law should not be based on the origin of the nationality.

Yuanqing Zhu
Self
Houston, TX

I am against HB2788. My opinion on HB2788 :

- (1) It is not legal for the governor to designate which countries are restricted, and it violates the Federalism principle of the United States. Texas is not a sovereign country and does not have the constitutional authority to handle foreign relations with other countries.
- (2) If the immediate family members of the ruling party in the restricted countries have been legal residents in the United States for many years, why can't they buy or sell real estate? For example, if my father is a member of the Chinese Communist Party and lives with me in the United States, what does his party membership have to do with my life here and my constitutional rights?
- (3) Making fair property transactions a criminal offense (state jail felony) gives Texas legislators too much power. Who gave them such authority? If that is not an abuse of power, then what is?

Hua Wang
Self, attorney
Houston, TX

I am against HB2788.

Lanzhen Wang
Self
Cypress, TX

Individual and entities from alien country should not be constrained from business opportunities. It takes 7 to 8 years for Chinese, Iranian students to receive permanent residency after they started working. During the this period they are on visas and have legal status in the United States. Therefore, their equal rights to develop and grow should not be limited.

Amy Wong
Self
Houston, TX

This is racism against Asian Americans, especially the Chinese group.

Guobin Zhang, Dr.

Self

Allen, TX

HB 2788 and the author Jetton are pure racism against American values. Please vote NO to HB 2788, no to Jetton!

Gracy Xu

Self

Plano, TX

I am strongly opposing HB2788/HB4006.

Yu Wang, Dr

Self

Pearland, TX

HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against Texan immigrants. We, the people in Texas value a sense of individualism and self-reliance. We take responsibility for our own decisions and outcomes. We take ownership of our lives. However, Section 5.252 (4)(D) of HB 2788 does not respect lawful immigrants' belief in this basic American spirit.

This bill scoffs at lawful immigrants by saying that: if you are an American citizen, when your parents do something wrong, you will NOT be punished because this is America; but if you are a permanent resident (Green Card holder) or on a lawful visa, and your parent works as a municipal public servant in your home country, you will NOT be allowed to buy a home; you will be fined for more than \$250,000 if you buy it.

HB 2788 damages Texas real estate property market by imposing bureaucratic procedures and burdens on free market transactions. In addition, it will cause devastating damage to the Texas economy by injecting fear into the immigrant communities. Tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and professionals who came to Texas as an immigrant are now serving Texas industries such as oil, gas, medical, aerospace, information technology, agriculture, construction, and service. There are more than 400,000 immigrant business owners in Texas, accounting for 51% of all business owners in Houston, 27% in Dallas, and 20% in Austin. Immigrant-led Texan households account for \$113 billion in after-tax spending power. We don't want to put this prospect into risk.

To conclude, HB 2788 demoralizes and discriminates against hundreds of thousands of immigrants who work, live and invest in Texas. It will cause devastating consequences to Texas economy.

p.s. Section 5.252.(2)(C) and Section 5.252.(4)(B)(i) seem to form a logical “ infinite loop.” The authors might need to double check it.

Bin Xie
Self
SUGAR LAND, TX

I am a voter living in Fort Bend Country, and I am one of the 9 people who testified on 3/2/2023 in support of Senate Bill 147 (2023). Due to my personal issue I was unable to testify in support of Texas HB 2788 during the public hearing, although I strongly support it. Like SB 147, after HB 2788 passed and signed into law, it will prevent Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the members of the CCP from owning additional real property in the State of Texas.

I remember after SB 147 went into the public eyes, and after HB 2788 was introduced to the House, MANY Chinese WeChat groups with names containing "Block SB 147 and HB 2788" surged with the sole purpose of stopping the 2 bills from being passed on the Texas Senate and House floors. The administrators and active members of these WeChat groups are actively mobilizing individuals across the United States to petition, protest, and attend hearings in TX capital of Austin at and inciting Chinese nation-wide to donate for their efforts.

As a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from China, I know well that such ability of mobilizing thousands of individuals through WeChat in a matter of a few short weeks demonstrates nothing else than that these activities are organized and coordinated by the ones who are truly impacted by this bill, which is the CCP and it's members. They are spreading the lies and inciting fear/anger/hate among the hard-working U.S. permanent residents and citizens who fled CCP and became part of the U.S. Community they love. I have gone through some of their sample letters, which defended the CCP even without covering up. For examples: due to the size of CCP (96 million members), Texas shouldn't treat them as hostile; "hostile nations" would not be buying property in the U.S. -- in fact a former CCP/PLA officer bought 137,000 acres of land near Laughlin Air Force Base in southern Texas.

House representatives, this is your opportunity to stand up and protect the sovereign land of Texas and the People of the United States from being taken over by the CCP! Vote YES to HB 2788! You have the back of the hard-working and freedom loving U.S. legal permanent residents and citizen patriots who immigrated from China. We love Texas and love the United States of America!

Ze Zhang
self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 2788. Under this bill, innocent new immigrants could be assumed guilty simply because of jobs their relatives held in another country. This bill also give unchecked power to some government officials. Such power will breed corruption.

zhonghua lai
self
Round Rock, TX

This bill will lead to unintended consequence and increase Asian hate, please vote against to it.

David Guo, Dr.
Self
Pflugerville, TX

This is a brutal race discrimination against the Asian community. What next, another Japanese camps?

Ruei Tuo
Self
Katy, TX

This bill is against American values and gives the governor and comptroller broad power to violate individual rights. I'm against this bill. If you believe in American democracy, you must not let this bill out of committee.

Qing Guo, Dr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

DON'T be a Nazi, Jetton!

Jiali Zhang
Self
Bellaire, TX

"I am against this HB2788 bill. The bill convicts individuals simply on the basis of their alleged association with the CCP, which is not in accordance with the legal trial process. Additionally, it involves illegal intent to seize private property. Moreover, the constitution clearly states that the property rights and freedom of speech of citizens and immigrants are inviolable. Government seizure of private property must be for the public good and require compensation. This is a blatantly discriminatory and encroaching bill on private rights."

Han Chen
Self / Education
Sugar Land, TX

RE: IN OPPOSITION to HB 2788

Dear Chairman Hunter and Members of the House Committee on State Affairs,

My name is Han Chen, representing myself. I am from Sugar Land, Texas, and I strongly oppose HB 2788. This bill unfairly targets a group of people based solely on their country of origin, assuming that ALL citizens of certain foreign countries, including parents of U.S. citizens, are a threat to our national security and therefore should be punished if they seek to buy a home and raise their children in Texas. I live in the Riverstone subdivision of Sugar Land. In my community, there are many immigrants who are citizens of foreign countries. I cannot imagine how my law-abiding neighbors could suddenly become a threat to our national security. They are legal immigrants, including students, professionals and small business owners who were admitted into our country after extensive background checks. Many of them are on their pathway to U.S. citizenship, and I believe they also deserve the rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness, including the right to own a home in Texas.

In closing, I ask that all members of this committee vote no on HB 2788 and stop this bill from targeting ordinary people in my community. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Han Chen

Wendy You, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposing to this bill. It leads to so many potential problems and unforeseeable issues in the future. De-dollarization is already an issue as middle east and other countries start to lose faith in US dollars and trade in other currencies, do you want to make them lose faith in the US's credit to protect international investor's rights and properties? If the US can easily take away all foreign investors' property by declaring their home country an enemy, imagine how it will shaken up other governments' and investor's confidence in the US government. Stop this dangerous act!! It is a very short sighted policy. It may in short term increase the government income and solve some temperature issues, but the long term damage will far outweigh the benefit.

Robert Hayhurst

Self

Canyon, TX

As a citizen of Texas I wholeheartedly support this bill. Texas must prohibit property ownership by entities and individuals controlled by other governments, specifically those governments that have proven themselves enemies of Texas and the United States.

Hongyi Li

self, teacher

pearland, TX

I am strongly opposing this bill. It bans certain individuals from purchasing or acquisition of real property simply based on their country of origin, which is discriminatory and unconstitutional. These people could not have chosen where they were born, but they chose to work and live in Texas. These individuals believe that U.S., including Texas, is the land of opportunity, the land of freedom, the land with least discrimination in the world. As a father of two, I sincerely hope I can pass on these beliefs to my children. All these beliefs will become a big lie if this bill passes.

zhenhua wu, Dr.

self

Katy, TX

Your allies today could be your enemy tomorrow. Restrictions, if any, should be imposed upon all foreign entities.

Hao Chen, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

Strongly oppose this HB, due to potential hate crime and/or discrimination risk. This Mr. Jetton seems only caring about his votes rather than doing meaningful things for Texas residents.

Jeremy Lu

self

College Station, TX

objection.

Xiangtong He

Self

Eules, TX

I am opposing against this racial hate crime bill

Jiixin Du

self

college station, TX

Object. This is bad for the housing market. This is bad discrimination.

Zhiwei Huang

Self

Flower Mound, TX

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to HB2788 (even after changes), which aims to ban individuals from buying properties in Texas from certain foreign countries only.

This bill, although being deliberately sugar-coated, is in its core unconstitutional, discriminatory, unamerican, against human rights, and has NOTHING to do with national security as it claims to.

If you recall the story of the Nazis hurting Jewish people back in the 1930s, it all started with the confiscation of Jewish property. Now, this evil bill is signaling to Texas, which is supposed to be an open and friendly state to any legal residents, old or new, to go down this DANGEROUS path.

Almost without doubt, this bill will eventually discourage new legal immigrants from the targeted foreign countries from moving to Texas in the future, as the opportunity cost becomes way too high. It surely will downsize, deteriorate and destroy the local Asian/Chinese community, and in practice, create an unfair disadvantage and discrimination in property trades to ANYONE who are ethnically Asian/Chinese, regardless of his or her citizenship or green card status.

The US has very stringent and comprehensive immigration laws, and this bill has nothing to do with national security because it only badly hurts local lawful Asian/Chinese residents and immigrants, instead of hurting any foreign governments. This bill is simply a new "Alien Land Law" which has been proven unconstitutional by the Supreme Court many decades ago. Why would a normal Texan even want this back, if he or she is not a racist?

With the above, I urge you to please refrain from passing this bill and please reject / revoke it ASAP.

Thank you for your attention and I appreciate your time and consideration of my feedback.

Regards,

Zhiwei Huang

Ku He

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose against HB 2788 because it targets certain aliens of foreign entities, and based on history, it inevitably discriminates against those aliens and certain legal immigrants. This will ultimately damage the human rights and economy of Texas. I am saddened by the fact that one of the authors of this bill is Angie Button, a former immigrant who now supports a discrimination bill against immigrants. In 2023, Texas already has a lot to worry about, with climate change constantly wreaking havoc, infrastructure fragile, a bad economy, and dire inflation. I want our state representatives to really focus on those key things instead of proposing discriminatory bills.

Hunter Wu
Self
Prosper, TX

I strongly oppose to HB 2788 as this is a discriminatory bill.

Lin Wu
Self
Keller, TX

I am oppose to HB2788

Zoey Zhao
Self
Spring, TX

I am a legal resident of Asian descent residing in Texas, writing to express my opposition to HB2788 and to urge you to vote against it. The reasons why I am against HB2788 are:

(1) Likely Illegal Under Federal and State Laws

The proposed bill would ban individuals from certain countries from purchasing real property in Texas based on national origin. This is illegal under a variety of federal and state laws, such as:

- the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, which prohibits the denial of equal protection;
- Texas Constitution, Article 1, Section 3a, which prohibits the denial of equality based on national origin;
- Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing because of national origin, and likely illegal under the World Trade Organization agreement.

(2) Unjustified Connection Between Individuals and Governments-Will Japanese internment during WWII back again???

The proposed bill seeks to remove a property right from individuals and companies based on the actions of their former governments, which is unjustified. HB2788 and the committee substitute treat companies and individuals from the TARGET countries as foreign interests connected to the government of those countries, which is analogous to banning a Texas resident from buying real property because of the action of the federal government in DC. Such bills cannot connect acts of a foreign country to individuals who are legally residing in the U.S.

(3) Extremely Harmful to State's Commerce and Business

The proposed bill has already scared off certain foreign investments in Texas and would permanently deprive Texas of substantial capital investments and job opportunities, putting Texas in a competitively disadvantaged position compared with other states. HB2788 would not achieve the goal of national security but would only punish commerce and industrial growth, deterring foreign investment from coming to Texas.

Texas should be open for business, rather than paranoia, overregulation, or senseless government restrictions. Please vote against HB2788!

Mingxia Hu
Self
Cypress, TX

Strongly oppose this bill, this bill will bring bad consequences on Asian America communities, and intensify Asia hates. Consequences bear on individuals rather than governments

Mengyu Xu
Self
Fulshear, TX

My name is Mengyu Xu. My family and I, we currently live in a very beautiful and diverse community in Fulshear 77441. I was extremely worried and upset when I heard about Bill HB2788 That's why I'm writing this letter to share my personal story with you and hope to stop this bill.

Coming to US is always one of my dreams even when I was a little kid, but it's not an easy road. I studied very hard to get admitted by a top university in China and spent the following four years getting prepared and finally got the offer from Southern Methodist University. I graduated in 2017 and found a job as accountant in Houston. Luckily, I was selected during H1b visa lottery and got my working visa in 2018. I had worked for another two year and my employer started to help me sponsor my Green Card application in 2020. Now in 2023, I still need to wait for three or four years to finally get my green card and become a permanent resident due to the long waiting time for people from China. There is another 5 years to make myself eligible to become a US citizen. I moved in US in 2016 when I was 23 years old. It will totally take me 16 years to transfer from a student to a US citizen. If this bill got passed, No matter how hard I work, I could not own a real property until I was 39 years old.

I understand that Texas government is worried about the national security, but threats shouldn't be determined only by nationality. I don't think an accountant like me has any threat to the national security, otherwise it's impossible for me to get a visa to enter US. Texas government could set up strict background screening when people purchase real property or mark some sensitive areas as special areas where only US citizens are eligible to purchase real property, which I think is more effective.

People should not be judged and punished just because of their nationality and birthplace. US is a great country that gives each individual equal right to pursue their dream. That's why we all want to come to US and that's why we think our voice can be heard by US government this time.

We are not threat. Please help us reject this bill and help Texas government have a more effective bill which can truly protect the security of this country.

Ya Liu
Self
Katy, TX

I strongly oppose bill HB2788. It's unconstitutional and racist. This bill is no different to the notorious Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Alien Land Law of 1913. Both were declared unconstitutional and repealed later. This bill is also not different to many other laws against Asian-Americans, all of which our country has recognized as impermissible racial discrimination and human rights violation.

Yue Jiang
Southern America Chinese IT Association
Sugar Land, TX

I am against this bill.

Yingtao Liu
Self
Katy, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

YW Chen
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose against this bill because it's not fair for ordinary working people from certain countries, who also are legal residents in Texas to purchase their home here. It's a discriminatory and controversial proposal.

Eden Le
NA
Richardson, TX

This bill is a racism. It deprives the normal right of certain people and tries to legitimize the action. People is different from the politic decision of the nation that people is from. It's absolutely wrong to set a punishment for individuals to conduct normal real estate purchase activities.

Jingjing Zhang
self
Leander, TX

My name is Jingjing Zhang, and I am a Texas resident since 2015. I am here as an individual to testify in opposition to bills HB2788 and HB4006. I oppose these bills because they could lead to unconstitutional discrimination based on national origin and create international incidents. HB2788 allows the executive branch to take away property rights from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th Amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. This bill targets specific foreign countries, which could escalate state policies into international conflicts. Allowing short-term political sentiment to dictate long-term law or policy making is neither good nor prudent. If passed, this legislation would not only violate our constitutional rights but also strain relationships with other countries and potentially harm the local Asian American community. I respectfully urge the committee members to refrain from setting this bill for a hearing, as the State of Texas and the local Asian American community would be better served without it. I would like to thank the committee members for their time and attention to this important matter.

Michelle fan
self
dallas, TX

Forbidding the specific foreigners purchasing estate is against the constitution. Nazi and Japanese fascist did exactly the same thing in the past.

Hongxia Lin
Self
Dallas, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Weihua Wang
Self and Engineering Manager
Fulshear, TX

Strongly oppose. HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Further, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting these two bills from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Yuanxin Xi
Self
Pearland, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because prohibiting people with certain foreign nationality from buying home is not only discrimination since it assumes all people from certain country are bad people, but also unconstitutionally since it deprives the basic right of hundreds of thousands of legally hard-working people, and will eventually do more harm to Texas than benefit.

Fei Xiao
Self
Plugerville, TX

Bad bill. HB2788 gives governors more authority to override the law. A government that is completely controlled by the governor is not a democracy, it is a dictatorship. In such a regime, the individual freedoms and rights of legitimate people are restricted.

Huang Xing
self Engineer
Houston, TX

As a member of Asian American community, I am writing to oppose HB2788.

HB2788 will allow the executive branch to take property rights away from individuals & companies based on their national origin. This gives too much power to one person. Furthermore, it violates equal protection protected by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Texas State Constitution (Article 1 Section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Finally, this bill will be aimed at certain foreign countries--which can and likely would convert state policies into international incidents.

Thus, I urge you to vote NO against HB2788 and refrain from setting this bill forward from the committee. The state of Texas would be better served that way.

Jasmine Zhang
Self
Sugar Land, TX

This bill unfairly targets a specific group of individuals based on their immigration status, which is not only discriminatory but also goes against the values of diversity and inclusivity that make Texas great. It is important that we treat all people with respect and dignity, regardless of their background or origin.

Juanjuan Song
self
Cedar Park, TX

Discrimination!!! I am writing to oppose HB2788 and HB4006, they are variations of SB147, but they discriminate based on the origin country implicitly.

June Xu
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I oppose this bill because this bill is giving the governor too much power. Besides, I think we better leave this foreign diplomatic issue to Washington than Austin. If Washington cannot simply decide what to do diplomatically, why would you think Austin has the resource to deal with this?

Dong Wang
Self
Allen, TX

Please oppose to HB2788. HB 2788 would allow the executive branch to take away property rights from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Furthermore, this bill would be aimed at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment to get in the way of long-term law or policy making. Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place. With that said, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill for a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Jane Yang
Self
Plano, TX

I am opposing HB2788.

Haitao Peng
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill since it's discriminating and it violates the constitution.

Haiyan Zhu
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose bill HB2788 since it's discriminating and it violates the constitution.

Bin Guo
self
AUSTIN, TX

I oppose against HB 2788. This bill will cause discrimination. Any categorization NOT based on behavior is discrimination. Please vote NO to HB 2788.

Bosen Du
self, system architect
Austin, TX

Strongly oppose HB 2788. This is discrimination against certain people.

ERIC HUANG
SELF
HOUSTON, TX

I'm a Texas Resident and I object to this HB 2788 Bill. We are all born with freedom and fair. This bill discriminates those people from other countries. It's weird you need to proved yourself is not part of those people. I understand right now there's some conflict between different counties, but that's political stuff. Majority of the buyers from those countries are just ordinary people and also do contributions to Texas as well. Why we are hurting them by creating bills like this? It's obviously discrimination!!!

Meng Jin
self, homemaker
Austin, TX

This is discrimination against people from certain countries. Absolutely NO to HB 2788.

Chen Zhang
Self , insurance agent
Leander, TX

I oppose the bill hb2788 and HB4006

Shaochen Li
self, analyst
Allen, TX

HB 2788 will allow the executive branch to take away a property right from companies and individuals based on their nation of origin, which is likely prohibited by the United States Constitution (14th amendment), the State of Texas' Constitution (article 1, section 3a), and the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Further, this bill will aim at certain foreign countries – which could and likely would convert state policies into international incidents. It is also not good or prudent to allow short-term political sentiment get in the way of long term law or policy making.

Thus, I believe it is better if we leave that door unopened in the first place.

With the above, I urge you to please refrain from setting this bill from a hearing at the committee. The State of Texas, as well as the local Asian American community, would be better served that way.

Jingdong Su
Self
Sugar Land, TX

HB 2788 is targeting individuals based on their nation of origin by allowing the government officials to take away the property right from them.

It is unfair to the people from these countries who worked and lived in Texas to pursue a better life and has nothing to do with their government. It is also violating basic laws such as the the United States Constitution, the State of Texas' Constitution, and the Federal Fair Housing Act.

With the above, I urge you to please vote no to setting this bill from a hearing at the committee.