

Oppose HB 17: Protect Texas' Economy and Reputation

While national security is a legitimate concern, the committee substitute of HB 17 is so broadly written that the local Chinese American community believes it is the new Chinese Exclusion Act.

1. Harm to Texas Economy & Business Climate

- **Destabilizes Real Estate Markets** – Banning property ownership and prohibiting leases by foreign individuals and companies disrupts commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural markets.
- Discourages investment into Texas, and drives away entrepreneurs and talent, costing Texas jobs and growth.
- The President of the United States expressed that he wants foreign investments into the U.S. – see: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2t6UNUxpKA0> (Feb. 26, 2025). This bill is in direct opposition to that.
- Talented and skilled international students and workers will leave Texas, harming research and economic activity in many universities and corporations.
- Enforcement of the law will be difficult, costly, and slow, and is likely to result in racial profiling of all Asians and Asian Americans.

2. HB 17 Does Not Enhance National Security

- Confuses *individuals* with their former *governments*; it baselessly assumes all of these individuals are agents of their former government, and punishes individuals *not for something they did*, but for *where they came from*.
- There is no evidence that restricting immigrants from owning a townhome or a condominium will impact national security. There is simply no connection.
- The not-within-10-miles-of-a-“critical infrastructure facility” requirement will effectively place prohibitions on nearly all properties.

3. Violates Federal Law & Constitutional Rights

- **Federal/State Oversight Already Exists** – Federal government already regulates foreign transactions through CFIUS; and Texas already passed the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act in 2021, making HB 17 redundant and excessive.
- **Unconstitutional Discrimination** – Violates the **14th Amendment**, the **Texas Constitution (Art. 1, sec. 3)**, and the **Fair Housing Act** by targeting individuals based on *national origin*.

4. Dangerous Social & Historical Precedents

- **Echoes Past Discrimination** – Resembles past alien land laws and policies, which Texas repealed in 1965 to encourage investment and deter discrimination.
- **Fosters Xenophobia & Racial Profiling** – Creates fear and division, disproportionately impacting the entire Asian American population.

Please protect the legitimate interests of those hard-working work and student visa holders from China lawfully living in the state and businesses that help make Texas an economic powerhouse.

Let's stand for fairness, business success, and an open Texas.