

Chair Barker and Members of this Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. My name is Fanny Fang, and I am a proud 1st-generation Chinese-Kansan. My family has called the Sunflower State home for 25 years. I offer my testimony in favor of House Bill 2113.

Like many immigrants, my parents came to this country to pursue the American Dream. They started that pursuit in New York City in 1988 and then moved westward to find a community that felt like home. 7 years later, my parents decided to settle in Manhattan, Kansas, because, as my dad shared with me, "People here are family."

I have incredibly fond memories of being raised in Kansas, but it continues to be overshadowed by the racism I've experienced as an Asian American woman.

When I was 10 years old, I was manning the cash register while my parents began to close down their buffet. The phone rang, I picked it up, and the caller asked, "Do you cook cats and dogs?"

In middle school, my classmates and I were struggling to understand a math concept. My teacher announced, "Don't worry, everyone. Even Fanny isn't good at this type of math."

These incidents only account for a small fraction of the racism I experienced growing up. They fostered such intense shame that I rarely acknowledged my Chinese heritage and Kansan upbringing. I almost permanently left Kansas in 2018 after college graduation but I chose to stay because as my dad once said, "People here are family."

Today I operate my family's ethnic grocery store. I still face similar phone calls and comments in my own business like I did when I was child. Additionally, COVID-19 has exacerbated anti-Asian rhetoric. I received a death threat that claimed a group was coming for, and I quote, "hunting of Asian businesses."

The difference between now and when I was 10 years old is that I have found my voice.

So, here I am, speaking up for myself and the thousands of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who call Kansas home. We are here and we deserve to be understood. We are worthy of resources and support from our government. We continue to make contributions and investments to help this state prosper and we have earned the right to be acknowledged.

By voting in favor of House Bill 2113, you would be sending a strong message to not only the residents of Kansas and across the country but to the world that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will be accepted here in the Sunflower State for who they are.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to stand for questions.