

CALDA Files Federal Lawsuit to Block Texas' SB 17 — A New Land Ban Alleged to Target Chinese Americans

Lawsuit seeks to strike down SB 17, citing historic parallels to exclusionary land laws from the 1890s

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, July 3, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance (<u>CALDA</u>), a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against racial discrimination, filed a federal lawsuit (<u>Wang et al. v. Paxton, Case No. 4:25-cv-3103</u>) today in Houston to challenge Texas' new alien land law, also known as <u>SB 17</u>.

Governor Greg Abbott signed SB 17 into law on June 20, 2025, with an effective date of September 1, 2025. In the name of national security, the law severely restricts individuals and companies from China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia from purchasing or leasing real estate in Texas.

Under SB 17, Chinese citizens without green cards
— including people with valid work, student, visiting
scholar, or business visitor visas or waiting for
asylum — will be banned from purchasing any real
estate in Texas except for a single homestead
property. The law bans all leases except the ones

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION PENG WANG, QINLIN LI, and YISI Case No. 4:25-cv-3103 KEN PAXTON, Attorney General of Texas, in his Official Capacity, only. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT I. INTRODUCTION 1. This lawsuit challenges a new Texas law, SB 17, that imposes discriminatory prohibitions on the ownership and purchase of real property based on race, ethnicity, and national origin, including prohibitions applied to Chinese citizens. See Texas SB 17 (2025) (to be codified at Tex Civ. PracB. And Rem. Code § 64.001(a), Tex Prop. Code §§ 5.005, 5.251-258). The Named Plaintiffs-three individual Chinese citizens who reside in Texas-are subject to the law's restrictions and its broad effects. They will be unable to rent (and therefore continue to live, study, and work) in Texas, and unable to purchase second homes or investment properties. The law stigmatizes them and their communities, and casts a cloud of suspicion over anyone of Chinese descent who seeks to buy property in Texas. 2. Under this discriminatory new law, people who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and whose "domicile" is in China will be prohibited from purchasing various forms of property in Texas. A similar rule will apply to people who are domiciled in Iran, Russia, North Korea, or other countries that may be listed in the future in the Annual

Cover page of the federal complaint filed by CALDA challenging Texas SB 17, Wang et al. v. Paxton, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

with a term shorter than one year. Violations carry severe penalties, including forced property sales, substantial fines, and felony charges.

According to the lawsuit, SB 17 follows Texas's history of alien land laws dating back to the 1890s — laws that were ultimately struck down or repealed after World War II. More than a century later, the lawsuit argues that Texas lawmakers have enacted policies reminiscent of the Chinese Exclusion Acts.

Texas is not alone. Florida passed its alien land law in 2023, similarly restricting the ability of

Chinese Americans to buy or own real estate in the state. CALDA has also filed a legal challenge (Case No. 4:23-cv-208-AW-MAF), which is now pending before the court of appeals. States including Indiana, Nebraska, Virginia, Utah, Ohio, Michigan, and North Carolina have passed or are considering copycat bills. As of 2025, hundreds of such legislative proposals have surfaced nationwide.

CALDA's lawsuit represents three Chinese Americans — two with student visas and one with work visa — in a proposed class action seeking to strike down SB 17. The plaintiffs face severe barriers to renting or purchasing properties under the new law. The complaint alleges multiple constitutional violations, including Equal Protection, Due Process, and Federal Preemption. It asks the court to declare SB 17 unconstitutional and void.

"We are standing up not only for these three plaintiffs, but for every Chinese American who deserves equal To eliminate racial discrimination and hatred pagainst Chinese Americans.

TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEND CHINESE AMERICANS

Stop anti-Asian hate and protect Chinese American communities.



Legal fight over Texas SB 17's discriminatory land restrictions.

protection and basic dignity in the United States." said Justin Sadowsky, Legal Director for CALDA and the lead counsel on the case.

About CALDA

The Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance (CALDA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that advocates for the civil rights and equal protection of Chinese Americans through strategic litigation, community education, and policy advocacy.

Legal Contact:

Justin Sadowsky, Legal Director Email: justins@caldausa.org



This discriminatory law violates fundamental constitutional principles and perpetuates harmful stereotypes that have no place in modern America."

Justin Sadowsky, Legal

Director for CALDA

Bina Wang Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance binaw@caldausa.org Visit us on social media: LinkedIn Facebook

This press release can be viewed online at: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/827847760

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.