Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Ling An, resident of East Lyme, Connecticut. I am writing to testify in regard of Bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or racial Subgroups in the public School Information System”.

I support the original concept of “prohibiting educational institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation of data from students by subpopulations of national origin or ethnicity”. However, we are very concerned in regards of this portion of the current bill language “unless…collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. I believe the entire population shall NOT be subject to registry of ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnicity origin.

I came to United States 15 years ago believing that this is the land of equal opportunities. After so many years, my whole family has happily settled on this land. We have no doubt this is the land and nation just as Dr. Martin Luther King said, for our children to live where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

My son was born in the US and he is an American. I still remembered clearly that his first celebration of July 4th, he was only 3 years old, he came back from school and pledged without any mistakes: one Nation under God…. From then on, we believe that those words have rooted deeply into his mind.

America is a country of immigrants. Generations of immigrants have contributed, enriched and reshaped a constantly evolving identity of being Americans. But this is one identity nevertheless. This is why I am strongly support legislation that ban labeling kids as perpetual foreigners in name of data collection. We don’t want to see one day some policies and practices are formed based upon his/her nation of origin or ethnicity which most of the time meant well, but can lead to discrimination and cause harm. We don’t want him/her to be seen as “another kind of American”. This great nation was built upon the notion that “All men are created equal”.

Race and ethnicity should never be criteria to categorize people.

Please modify the bill language as to “No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry nation of origin and ethnicity origin”. Please vote for Bill SB359.

Thank you very much for your favorable consideration!

Yours truly,

Ling An