Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Hannah Chen, a resident of Connecticut for almost 20 years and a mother of three children born and raised in Connecticut. I am writing to testify regarding to bill S.B. No. 359 “AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISAGGREGATION OF STUDENT DATA BY ETHNIC SUBGROUPS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION SYSTEM.”

I **strongly support** the original concept of “prohibiting educational institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation of data from students by sub populations of national origin or ethnicity”.

However, I’m **equally concerned** with regard to the current bill language “unless … collected uniformly across the entire population of students”.

I truly believe the power of education is the foundation of the future of this country. With previous formal education and training in medical school and a mother of three, I totally understand all children are unique, because each and every child has their own talent, capacity and potential, but not because of their color, their race, or their ancestors’ national origin. Educational assistance should be need based, not race or ethnicity based. This applies for all American children, not just certain groups or sub-groups.

Government agencies already collectively have enough race and ethnicity data to at least a local municipal level. Collecting such data from individual children is not only a waste of public resources, but more importantly, it’s unconstitutional. And again, this is true for all Americans, not just certain groups or sub-groups.

Please remove the language of “unless … collected uniformly across the entire population of students” and then pass the bill.

Very truly yours,

Hannah Chen
111 Spring Water Lane
New Canaan, CT 06840