Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Raymond Chen, a Connecticut resident since 1995. 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 regard 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 23 years ago believing this is the land of equal opportunities. In 1995 - 23 years ago, my older son, Albert, was born at New Haven, CT. I have since raised my two AMERICAN born sons in Connecticut. We have always believe that this is the land and nation, as Dr. 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.

Although both my wife and I are naturalized US citizens, my two sons are born in US. On the Day of the naturalization, both my wife and I pledged that one Nation under God. This is why I am strongly support legislation that ban labelling kids as perpetual foreigners in the name of data collection. I don’t want my wife, my sons and me to be labelled as “another kind of American”. This great nation was built upon the notion that “All men are created equal”. We all are Americans, no matter where we came from.

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 in advance for your favorable consideration!

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Raymond Chen, Ph.D. in Chemistry