Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Wei Chen, a resident in Orange, CT. Currently, I am working as the Senior R&D Manager at DCL Inc in East Haven, CT. 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.

I am supporting the original concept because everyone is equal. I believe America is a fair country and has a fair society. This is a critical reason that I moved to USA after obtaining my PhD degree. However, the collection and separation of data from students by subpopulations of national origin or ethnicity is a clear discrimination! I could not accept this separation: every student should and must have the same right regardless of his/her race, creed, color, or national origin. Everyone is equal!

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.

Wei Chen, PhD, PMP

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