Testimony before the Education Committee

Supporting S.B. 359 Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups

Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Yonghong Chen and I am a citizen living in 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, I am 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 am supporting the original concept because I believe that collection of disaggregating data is unnecessary and only creates ethnic divides. This would greatly undermine the principles of equality and equity, which is a core value of America. Any profiling based on ethnicity origin will always lead to discrimination, even with the best intention. Our children and our students should never be in a position that they feel different or singled out among their fellow classmates, because of their ancestry origin. We should not spend taxpayer’s money to collect these data, which is not beneficial, but detrimental to our society.

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 no. SB359.

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