Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Yu Chen, I came from China and now I am a Sr. Research Scientist working at an international high-tech company. 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”, because when people came to this country, they should only have one identity name, American, instead of being separated by their skin colors or where their grandparents came from. To separate people by ethnic or racial subgroups will hurt the US nation interest in the long term and it would be extremely harmful to this country.

I have a friend, who came from a very poor area in China. When he was a kid he didn't even have a light to study at night. However, he never gave up and studied really hard. Finally he got a Ph.D. in the US with the financial support provided by the school. Now he is a Sr. Scientist working at NASA. This is a real "American Dream" that happened to the people I know, just like what I had read in those books before I came to the US: This is the country of immigrants no matter what your skin color is; This is the place that you work hard for your dream and it would come true no matter where you original came from. However, this won't be true anymore if disaggregation of student data by ethnic or racial subgroups in the public school information system is permitted because from that moment people are separated by their national origin even if they are working really hard. This is not justice and not equality as well. If the disaggregation of student data by ethnic or racial subgroups in the public school information system is allowed, my friend might lost his final support to finish his Ph.D. study and US will loss a talent scientist that would work for the US aerospace projects. This would be a big loss of the US and would hurt the US nation interest.

My daughter is 5-year old, who was born in the US. One day she asked me: "Am I an American?" I said "yes." Then she asked: "But why my skin color is not the same as my classmates at school?" I told her: "Because you are in a country that people have different skin colors come from all over the world and we joined together and become a member of a big family. This family is called: The United States. So no matter what your skin color is, all of you are Americans and all of you are equal in this country." I wish my daughter would always be proud to say that she is an American in the future instead of only allowed to say she is "other Asian American". I wish that she and other kids at school could all get the same support but not feels be discriminated against due to her racial subgroups. I don't want to one day tell her that
she won't able to get the resource that she deserve based on her hard work, just because her skin color and ethnic made her separated and unequal treated. Every child of America is an America. We should unite of future generation instead separate them to let them fight to each other.

Although it is sugarcoated as "All students count", to allow the disaggregation of student data by ethnic or racial subgroups in the public school information system not only will destroy the justice and equality in our education system so that people who really need help won't be able to get their resource, but also it releases a dangerous signal of allowing racial discrimination in this country. Throughout history, people had suffered in various ways due to registry of Ancestry nation of origin and ethnic origin. We don't ever want policy based on ethnicity or immigration origin which most of the time meant well, but can lead to discrimination and cause harm.

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.

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.

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