Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Zhong Chen, a resident of Fairfield, 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, 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 America is a land of equal opportunity and equal protection, regardless of national origin. The Asian Registry, which would require my American-born and raised child to fill in school forms regarding her ancestry, leaves me wondering how this information might affect her educational career. To me, the Asian Registry is a cruel mockery of the ideals this nation stands for.

This is not just an Asian American issue. This is indeed an American issue. How can we ever become a nation where people are judged by the content of their character if educational opportunity depends on our national origin? I wish that one day the citizens of this nation need only fill in one box to identify themselves: American.

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.

Sincerely,

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