Testimony supporting Senate Bill Number 359 An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System

3/7/2018

Dear Chairs and Members of the Education Committee,

I am a resident of Guilford, a father of two children in CT public schools. I am writing to thank you for raising Senate Bill Number 359: An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System. My family strongly supports this bill and would urge the Education committee to pass this bill.

Once when I saw the disaggregated student data collection forms implemented in some other states, I was scared and extremely disturbed by the long list of subgroups that targets Asian American only. I feel I am luck for that I am live in Connecticut, the Constitution State where the legislators have a proud history of protecting the fundamental rights of every single US citizen. I feel lucky because my children, and children of my children, don’t have to pick up a subgroup from overwhelming options without consent to where and how this information will be used. Therefore, I support SB359, and any bill that prohibits the mandatory disaggregation data collection.

As a senior statistician in public health and medical research, I have involved in tons of projects collecting data and using data. The SB 359 is in line with the fundamental ethics in our field. Any massive data collection on specific ethnic subgroups or by ethnic subgroups through public education system may put people of this subgroup at risk from abuse of these data. It’s also a big waste of public resource considering there are numerous origin of immigrants in USA and ambiguous definition of each subgroup. Instead, the needs of collecting such data for research can be properly addressed with a well-designed and closely monitored study, rather than a massive mandatory data collection in the entire school system.

Please pass Senate Bill Number 359. We are living in the UNITED States of America that is united by people of countless race and ethnicity groups. We don’t want to be sub-categorized again and again.

Sincerely yours,

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