Dear Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Andrew Feng and I am a voter in the town of Farmington. I am submitting this testimony to oppose SB 359, which prevents the public school information system from disaggregating student data by ethnic subgroups. The ability to look at data in subgroups by race and ethnicity is critical to understanding and targeting appropriate areas of need. Data provides us the information we need to make better more informed decisions on a variety of important issues that have a disparate impact on members of different subgroups.

The language in SB 359 would limit our state’s ability to disaggregate data to two conditions: 1) if it is federally mandated or 2) if the data is uniformly collected for all ethnic subgroups for all students in the state. Connecticut should have the choice to disaggregate data in a manner that makes sense for our unique needs. SB 359’s first condition subjects our state choice to federal mandates. SB 359’s second condition creates an impossible standard and thus prohibits disaggregating data, since data is currently not collected from all students in the state (i.e. home schooled and private school students). Our state has a right to our own collected data, and we should retain a choice in how it is aggregated. These limits remove Connecticut’s ability to choose how to aggregate our community data.

We live in the land of opportunity and regardless of race, ethnicity, or primary language, our students should have the resources necessary to succeed. Disaggregated data will help us understand where our needs are so resources are targeted properly to give equitable tools for success to all our students.

Please oppose SB 359 and ensure that every child has an equal access to quality education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Andrew Feng
Farmington, Connecticut