Honorable Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Peter Feng, and I am a 10th grade student at Cheshire High School. I am testifying about Bill SB359, "Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System". I agree that the state should not separate student data based on national origin or ethnicity. The problem is that the bill allows for data to be "disaggregated by ethnic subgroups" so long as it is "collected uniformly for all ethnic subgroups among the entire student population in the state". I don't believe our data should be separated by origin or ethnicity. In the spirit of the American ideal, it is not where you are from, but how hard you work that determines your success. Disaggregating data by race is meaningless, and will promote a false idea of uniformity in ethnic groups when in truth, ethnicities are a sea of individuals, each with their own lives, experiences, and ambitions. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr, we should be judged "not by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character." Therefore, please vote for bill SB359, and modify it to guarantee that no student data will ever be subject to separation by country of origin, ancestry, race, or ethnicity unless required by federal law.

Thank you,
Peter Feng