March 6, 2018

Dear Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Lillian Fontan. I reside in Watertown, Connecticut. Currently I am the Secretary of the Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS). I stand in strong opposition to SB 359: An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups. This bill will have serious implications for efforts underway seeking educational equity for students of color.

As you know the U.S. Department of Education NAEP Data has identified Connecticut as having the largest achievement gap in the nation with significant performance gaps. This bill will make it possible to hide the racial disparities and deplorable outcomes that exist for Latinos, Blacks and other children of color in the public schools. Disaggregating data is highly beneficial and can show where aggregate data is masking discrepancies. It can also inform program implementation and the monitoring process. More importantly, looking carefully at subgroups allows for resources to be spent in the most needed areas which can have the biggest impact in student achievement.

I hope that you will seriously consider the negative impact this bill will have on our students of color. I urge you to strongly oppose SB359.

Sincerely,

Lillian Fontan

Lillian Fontan

CALAS Secretary