Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Jinghong Gao. I am from Guilford CT, and I have been a Connecticut resident since 2008. I work as data manager in the Outcome research center at Yale New Haven Health System.

First of all, I like to applaud you for raising the bill (No. SB359) “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System”, and holding the public hearing to allow citizens to express their opinions.

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. Moreover, signaling out student information based on country of origin and language/dialect within racial/ethnic categories, also known as disaggregation reinforces differences among people, creates division, and harbors unnecessary hostility among groups. Our dear country USA has been called a “melting pot”. The laws of government should reinforce unity other than division!

Once again, 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”. 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 SB359.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via my email at jinghong.gao@yale.edu

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jinghong Gao