RE: **Testimony in regard of Bill no. SB359** "Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System"

Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is **Ning Gao**, a resident of Westport, CT. I am writing to testify in regard of **Bill no. SB359** "Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System".

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.

I am supporting the original concept because I believe that America is a land of equal opportunity and equal protection, regardless of national origin. The Asian Registry, which would require my American-born and raised child to fill in school forms regarding her ancestry, leaves me wondering how this information might affect her educational career. To me, the Asian Registry is a cruel mockery of the ideals this nation stands for.

This is not just an Asian American issue. This is indeed an American issue. How can we ever become a nation where people are judged by the content of their character if educational opportunity depends on our national origin? I wish that one day the citizens of this nation need only fill in one box to identify themselves: American.

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 no. SB359**.

Sincerely,

Ning Gao

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