March 7, 2018

Dear Members of Education Committee:

My name is Yifeng Gao and I am a resident of Orange, Connecticut. I am writing to testify the Bill No. SB 359 "Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroup 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, we are very concerned in regards of this portion of the current bill: "unless collected uniformly across the entire population of students". I believe the entire population shall not be subjected to the registry origin of ancestry immigration nation or ethnicity.

I am supporting the original concept because I think that it very clearly addresses the basic definition of an America citizen and the rights of the citizen which the constitution indicates; I think that if so, this bill will be better for us to protect the people, especially for the children in schools. Our constitution proclaims the identity of an American citizen is not based on race or religion, and not based on the ancestry origin of nation. Although opponents raise the argument about disaggregation of data collection which is beneficial and interesting for some subgroups or subpopulations, they do not realize that "Disaggregation of Student Date by Ethnic or Racial Subgroup" is a constitutional issue, which is against our nation's principle and value. However, this is not only a social or social-economic issue. The arguments the opponents have are beyond the constitution, which could not be allowed by the constitution and law. Some social issues for some subgroups or some subpopulations should go through certain ways to get attention and to become resolved, and not by using desegregation or racial registry by data of disaggregation.

I feel so appreciated that four state senators raised the Bill 359 and Education Committee allowed this bill to get a public hearing. It is a very good opportunity for us and especially for our children to express our thoughts and concerns, and to know and better understand the American Constitution's value and principle. Also I would like all the members of education committee to support Bill SB 359.

Sincerely;

Yifeng Gao
203-891-0578
yfg1227@yahoo.com