Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Geliang. 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”, because I firmly believe that not only protect people’s privacy but embodies the most important spirit of our country which is treating everyone equally with dignity no matter what our circumstances are.

The history of we Asian people coming to US and joining the whole big family dated back to 19 century. We study hard, work hard as people from other races do, and never stop trying. We contribute building the modern and world-leading Unites States. We deserve to be treated equally in this country especially which is labeled as the land of free and the home of the brave.

However, all the sudden, we Asian people became the model minority, the “privileged”, the “overly successful” ones and some people even want to further divide Asian Americans by our ancestry nation of origin and the dialect we speak at home. I’m really offended because this only applies to Asian people. It seems like we’re punished by our excellence. Moreover, in history, tragedies happened to certain group of people after being labeled. It’s scared to me if I’m required to register my ancestry nation of origin. It’s even frightening for me to think what consequence this might be if this becomes mandatory to only Asian people.

My Children are born and raised here. They love this country like other Americans do. This is the only homeland they know. How I’m going to explain to them why they are the only ones to register ethnicity origin. 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. It’s an invasion of privacy and misuse of CT taxpayer dollars.

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.

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