Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Tao Gong, residing in New Jersey and doing data science research. Before moving to New Jersey, I have worked in Yale University for over three years. 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, we are 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 it is clear and important, and cannot be easily manipulated wrongly. My work in Yale University is about educational psychology, and my current work at Educational Testing Service is about data analysis of the national assessment of educational progress (NAEP). My over 15 years of academic research makes me aware of the importance of diversity and health competition among students from a variety of races, and that we do not need any disaggregation of student data by ethnic or racial subgroups in the public school information system. Students from different groups can live together, learn together, and contribute to our education outcome. Diversity is crucial to make US great again.

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.

Best regards,

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