Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Emily Gu, from Connecticut, and I am an American citizen, born and raised in the United States. I am here to testify in regard of bill 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 I have experienced segregation myself and was asked repetitive questions about my heritage for the past five years in school. I was asked over and over again, “Are you Chinese?” Plus, I was singled out by my grade because I was the only one with Chinese heritage in my grade. I don’t want any other youths today and in the future to suffer the indignation, anger, and embarrassment of answering these questions over and over again on paper and in the community with extreme specifics. Also, some of my classmates in 3rd Grade told me, “You’re supposed to be smart since you’re Chinese.” At first, I took that as a compliment, but later on I felt more and more discriminated by those sayings. I didn’t and still don’t like how they view people with Chinese heritage in this stereotypical way. We are all American, no matter where we are from. It’s time to start viewing people with foreign ancestry who are citizens as true American citizens. If this bill is passed, Martin Luther King Jr’s dream of racial integration would start to come true. If this bill is
passed, the Fourteenth Amendment will be honored. If this bill is passed, it will be the start of a non-stereotypical view of Asian-Americans. If this bill is passed, we will be “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” as stated in Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Thank you.

Emily Gu

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