Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Peihua Gu, a Senior Data Scientist at a global health insurance company. 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 collecting data for educational research, medical research or other studies for Asian Americans without an informed consent is a violation of human privacy. It happened with Jewish people during WWII that the Nazi had used them for human studied. It also happened on African Americans numerous times. I understand that history tends to repeat itself, so I sincerely hope that the government can take more consideration of the humanity side.

Over 50 years ago, in the speech, “I have a dream”, Dr. Martin Luther King said “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”. It is also a dream for us, parents of an Asian kid, that our kid will not be judged by his ethnicity.

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.

Sincerely,

Peihua Gu

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