Honorable Members of Education Committee:

This is Zhenhua Gu, a lawful resident of East Lyme, Connecticut. 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 came to United States more than 20 years ago and believed this is the land of equal opportunities without discrimination. I have never doubt this is the land and nation, as Dr. King said, for our children to live where they will not be judged by the color of their skin or their parent’s nationality, but by the content of their character.

Both of my kids were born in US and they are Americans. America is one Nation under God. America is a country full of immigrants. Generations of immigrants have contributed, enriched and reshaped a constantly evolving identity of being Americans. But it is one identity nevertheless. This is why I am strongly support legislation that ban labelling kids as perpetual foreigners in name of data collection. I don’t want to see one day some policies and practices are formed based upon their nation of origin or ethnicity which most of the time meant well, but can lead to discrimination and cause harm. I don’t want to them to be seen as “another kind of Americans”. This great nation was built upon the notion that “All men are created equal”.

Race and ethnicity should never be criteria to categorize people.

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 No. SB359.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration!

Yours truly,

Zhenhua Gu

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