Honorable Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Austin Hewu. I am a seventh grader living in Cheshire, 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”. We should be able to call ourselves American, not Chinese-American, Japanese-American, Korean-American, or any other variant of American that you could think of.

My parents are both from China. I know that China itself has many diversified subgroups. The idea of disaggregation would not make sense if we consider the diversification in each ethnic group. If you want to divide people by ethnic subgroups, which level of specification would you go to?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once dreamed that he wanted his children to “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.” Although we are much closer to that dream than ever before, we still are not done yet. The next big step to achieving that dream is to get rid of these subgroups.

America is divided right now. However, if we unify it, we have to all become one. 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.

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