Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Hong Chen. I live in Westport, CT. I am a teacher at Staple High School of Westport. 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 I believe the following:

The Asian Registry, which would require my American-born and raised children to fill in school forms regarding their ancestry, leaves me wondering how this information might affect their educational career. I believe that America is a land of equal opportunity and equal protection, regardless of national origin. To me, the Asian Registry is a cruel mockery of the ideals this nation stands for.

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.

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