Testimony before the Education Committee
Supporting S.B. 359 Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups
Oral Testimony by Lei Huang, Citizen of US and resident of New Canaan, CT
Thursday, March 8, 2018

Chairs Fleischmann, Slossberg and Boucher, Ranking Member Lavielle, and Members of the Education and Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for raising Senate Bill Number 359: An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System. I support this bill.

This bill prohibits the collection of disaggregated student data on specific ethnic subgroups unless such student data is required by federal law or collected uniformly across the entire population of students.

I support the idea that specific ethnic student groups' disaggregation information should not be collected unless is required by federal law. Furthermore, I would like to ask the committee to consider removing the condition or verbiage where the data can be collected if the data of the entire population of the students are uniformly collected.

I oppose any government or government agencies, local, state, or federal, to blankly require the collection of racial, ethnicity, and language (REL) information about any group for any reason for the following reasons:

1. Information, such as income and merits, are readily available measures to help decide public resource allocation.
2. Individuals of any REL group already have the freedom to provide their own ethnic data to anyone at any time for any purposes.
3. Policies to help specific racial, ethnicity and/or language group can be planned and calculated on per capita basis and use voluntary information provided by individuals in these groups at the time of policy draft.
4. Government forcing any REL group, not just Asians, to provide such information for convenience creates more problem than its benefit.

For example, policies such as the USC Title 8 Chapter 7, Exclusion of Chinese established by US Federal Government, and the Jewish identification, or the "Jewish Badge", imposed by Nazi Germany provided tools for irreversible governmental actions and historical consequences against specific ethnic groups. And I am sure these policies had their overwhelming "reasonable" support at their times.

In short, the danger and consequences of racial, ethnicity and even language persecution is real and there are other, none-intrusive ways to help racial and ethnical groups.

Signed, Lei Huang
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