Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Chongmin Ji, a 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 11 years ago, and my son was born in US; he is an American. I have seen my son seriously pledged with his hand on his chest: before class in the morning, before a sports game, even on the road when the national anthem played – one Nation under God. His serious facial expression told me that he deeply loves his country and will grow up to help build up this country. I believed that this is the land and nation where nobody will be judged by the color of their skin and everybody has the equal opportunities. Race and ethnicity should never be criteria to categorize people. I would like to protect our children from the stigmatization of being “another kind of American.” We don’t want to create an environment that judge students by stereotype or categorization because of where their family came from or their ethnicity. There should be no profiling of American children, since profiling leads to discrimination. We want to be united and we don’t want to be segregated. This is why I am strongly supporting legislation
that bans labelling kids as perpetual foreigners in name of data collection. I believe that this nation was built on the notion that “All men are created equal.”

Please modify the bill’s wording to, “No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry or nation of origin and ethnicity origin”. Please vote for bill SB359.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Chongmin Ji