Senate Bill Number 359
Education Committee
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.

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.

When students walk into classrooms across our state, they should feel safe. They should feel welcome, and free to learn and share their ideas, thoughts, and dreams with their peers and their teachers. Our students should never be in a position that they feel different or singled out among their fellow classmates, and by passing Senate Bill 359, we, as a Legislature, will be able to assure them that they will not be required to provide specific data regarding their ethnicity.

I urge the Education Committee to pass Senate Bill Number 359. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to prohibit the collection of disaggregated student data on specific ethnic subgroups unless such student data is required by federal law.