Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Zhaohui Lei, a resident of Glastonbury, 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.

Educational opportunity should be provided equally regardless to each individual’s background. I came to U.S.A in 1993 to join my husband at the Ohio State University. In 2000, my husband and I were naturalized to become US citizens. In the past 25 years, I myself have truly learnt the concepts of “freedom and equal opportunity as my American dream” in this land. Some policies and practices are formed based upon nation of origin or ethnicity origin which most of the time meant well, but can lead to discrimination and cause harm.

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.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration!

Yours truly,

Zhaohui Lei