Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Cuihong Li. I am a resident of Tolland, Connecticut. Please accept this as my written testimony in support of bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System”.

My daughter Ellen is a 5th grader in the Tolland public school system and a natural born citizen of the United States. When I told her about this bill and asked for her thoughts, her reaction was: “Yes, of course! Why do we want to be called German American, Italian American, Ethiopian American, or Mexican American? That will be too much, and will divide us!” I fully agree with her sentiment. Even though she is a natural born citizen, she oftentimes finds herself to have to explain to her fellow schoolmates that she is not from China, Japan, or Korea. She has the subtle feeling that sometimes she is viewed more as a Chinese than an American, and she finds this troublesome.

I fully support the 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”. I believe this will prevent any further division and help to bring unity among our children. This is especially important in today’s environment when this country appears to be divided more than ever before.

Thank you for your time.

Cuihong Li

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