Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Ian Li. I am 10 years old and currently a fifth grade student. I am writing to testify regarding 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 am supporting the original concept because I believe that a student’s opportunities to a higher education should not be based on ethnicity or ancestry but on each individual’s abilities. I feel that disaggregation based on ethnicity would have a negative and unfair influence on my schooling in the future and would affect many other Asian students. Profiling according to ethnicity is definitely not of one accord with the privilege of equality in the U.S. I also think that singling out Asian students for profiling is very racial and unreasonable. Please consider what effects disaggregation would result in and STOP discrimination.

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.

Ian Li, 5th Grader

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