March 8, 2018

Education Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

Honorable Members of Education Committee:
This is Larry Li, an engineer and a resident in Avon, CT. I am submitting my testimony to support SB 359 with modification of the last sentence of the bill language to reflect that SB359 is to ban the registry of nation of origin and ethnicity to ALL students in Connecticut.

The Asian Registry requires that every Asian American is to be identified by his/her ancestry, then the data is made available to state agencies for making different policies to be applied to different ancestry groups This is unconstitutional racial profiling.

The Asian Registry is especially designed to target K-12 children. My 11-years old son, Nash Li, was born in this country. He loves having photos taken under our National flag, only speaks English and eats American food. The United States of America is his only motherland. Labeling him as a Chinese, because of the country of my origin, would have detrimental psychological impact on him. Fearing that our son could be discriminated, his mother desperately wants to change his last name to hide his ancestry. It would forever make my son ashamed of who he is. I feel sad for my son that, after generations of civil right movement for equal right and equal protection, I am here to ask for a basic right for my son: to be treated equal.

The registry based on race or country of origin is wrong, regardless it is an Asian Registry, Black Registry or White Registry. The modified SB359 would protect all children of Connecticut from being forcefully registered based on their ancestry nation of origin or their ethnicity at schools.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Larry Li

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