Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Yuheng Li, living in Connecticut for more than 10 years. 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.

I am supporting the original concept because there are fundamental flaws in disaggregating study data based on Ethnicity or racial groups. And I strongly consider it anti-American for those efforts to make it MANDATORY to collect such disaggregated data. With the rapid changing of society coupled with the deepened globalization trend, disaggregating data based on ethnicity and racial group fails to represent the evolving world. Especially in American, we are mingled with this multi-culture society and changing ourselves into a new identity. Even for the children that were born in the US, they share much less of the identify and culture of the nationality/country than their ancestors. Collection of such disaggregated data for students becomes superficial and lacks proven support for the so-called benefits for minorities. There are other important factors, such as income level, status when immigrating to US, individual variations, and etc. play critical role in shaping the academic performance of a student.

So please modify the bill language to “No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry nation of origin and ethnicity origin”. Please vote for bill SB359.

Sincerely yours,

Yuheng Li

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