Dear Members of Education Committee,

My name is Jennie Lin. I am a freshman from East Lyme High School. Both of my parents are from China, and my brother, my sister, and I were the first generation in our family that were born in America. 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 and ethnicity, because I believe that everyone is equal no matter what race they are and where they are from. In my opinion people shouldn't be separated into groups based on where they came from. America is a place where everyone comes to achieve their dreams and enjoy their freedom. Our country is made up of many different people who all came here to accomplish whatever goal they have. So, I don't think it is very equal to divide only one part of the population into smaller parts. In school, many of my friends are different races and ethnicity than me, but when I look at someone, I don't really care what the color of their skin is or where they are from. Also, we shouldn't be divided into groups based on where our ancestors lived. We all evolved from the same things and we are all human. Even though our ancestors chose to live in a different place than someone else, that doesn't define us. To conclude, I do support the original concept of prohibiting institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation of data from students by subpopulations of national origin or ethnicity.

Nevertheless, I am concerned with the idea of this part of the bill: “unless … collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. In my opinion, If this division were to occur, I think everyone of all different races and ethnicity should be included to make it more equal. If possible, please modify this portion of the bill.

Thank you and please vote for bill SB359.

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