Dear Honorable Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Joyce Lin. I am a senior at East Lyme High School. I am writing to testify in regards to Bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System.”

I rise in strong favor of this bill. As I have gone through 12 years of schooling in the Connecticut public school system and I have both witnessed and experienced racial discrimination. Although the sentiment is that the country is becoming more diverse, that does not mean we need more labels. There are already so many stereotypes associated with being Caucasian, African-American, Asian, Latino, Native American, etc. There does not need to be more division within our country. We are in a time where we as Americans should be united, not more divided than we already are.

If this bill is passed, student data will still be representative of the population. In schools with little diversity, the nit-picky dissection of ethnic groups seems to be hardly beneficial. Furthermore, I would like to note Section 1. Subsection B. I believe that creating a state-wide information system is highly appropriate. School information systems such as Infinite Campus or Edline can differ greatly from one another. For students who move or transfer within the state, having a constant information database would alleviate missing or unnecessary information.

However, I am 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.

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”.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

To bring it back to my main argument, my main point is that each citizen of this country is an American. I was born in New London and am a first-generation Asian-American in my family. I am proud of my culture and heritage, and especially proud that my country is welcoming to immigrants such as my parents. I am not speaking only for the Asian community, but Americans, in general, who would suffer if this legislation is struck down.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 333-7032. Thank you again for taking the time to read my testimony and affirmation for this bill.

Respectfully,
Joyce Lin