Puwei Liu
1579 Diamond Lake Road,
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Puwei Liu, resident of Glastonbury, Connecticut. 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 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.

When I was in the middle school in China, I learned Dr. Martin L. King’s famous speech ‘I have a dream’ through our English text book. Even today, after over thirty years, I still feel gratitude that Dr. King’s speech was adapted in Chinese text book for students. ‘I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.’ I still clearly remember when the first time I read this, tears came to my eyes.

I have three kids, all born in this great country, are currently in high school and college. During the years, I am trying very hard to raise my son and daughters to treat everybody the same, regardless their race, gender, and national origin. I want them to have an opportunity to reach their full potential by determination and hard working. I want them to grow up in a society that people are not labeled by their national origin, but by their personality, merits, and the way they treat other people.

Unfortunately my kids are currently live in a culture that people tend to pass judgement on them before they even get to know my kids. My kids are constantly facing the stereotype of ‘Asian’ images and become more and more self-conscious about their ethnic background. The last thing I want to have is another level of prejudice and demonization on top of the suffering that they are enduring every day. Is this too much to ask after more than half a century past of Dr. King’s simple dream?

We own our kids for an opportunity to live as themselves, not as sons and daughters of European/Asian/African immigrants. Please vote for Bill SB359. Thank you for your favorable consideration!