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Education Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1562

Honorable Members of Education Committee,

This is Shuo Liu. 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".

My wife’s experience warns us what a misleading and confusing message such a registration could send to our children and the society. Her grandparents were separated during Chinese Civil War in 1949. Her grandmother raised all their children alone in the mainland while her grandfather was eventually settled in Taiwan with a another marriage. His grandson from that marriage (my kids' uncle) now lives in the United States. He is close to us as a family can be. How can we tell our kids that, despite they and their uncle are blood-related, natural born citizens of the country, they are deemed different just because their grandparents were separated by a war, if such data collection is to be implemented? How do you explain it to a second grader who just learned at school that all men are created equal as written in the constitution?

Therefore 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 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". Please vote for bill SB359.

Sincerely yours,

Shuo Liu