Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Yan Liu and I am a Connecticut resident. I am writing to testify my support 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 education institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation data from students by subpopulations of national origin and 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.

I support the original concept because children should not have to fill out their ancestry and nation of origin everywhere they go and for everything they do. Dividing up the population into different subgroups will train our children to see themselves as ‘Chinese’ or ‘Indian’ or ‘Korean” (etc.) rather than ‘American’ and lose sight on the fact that everybody living in America is an American. This information can also be used to the disadvantage of many children when it comes down to college acceptance and selection. All children should be given an equal chance and opportunity to be accepted for a college and should not be rejected just because of their race. Because of this, everyone in this country, especially children, should never be forced to register their nation of origin and ancestry.

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,

Yan Liu

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