March 6, 2018

Dear Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Dr. Madeline Negron. I reside in East Hampton, Connecticut. Currently, I am the President-Elect of the Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS). I stand in strong opposition to SB 359: An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System. This bill will have serious implications for efforts underway seeking educational equity for students of color.

It is not any news that alarming disparities in achievement have existed in Connecticut for a number of years. Close analysis of disaggregated data has made it evident that the disparities not only exist along socioeconomic lines but also along racial lines. According to the 2015-2016 Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment results, Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino of any race students continue to underperform in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science in comparison to White students. In addition, although “Connecticut continues to make great progress toward graduating more of our high school student every year, it takes students of color longer to graduate from school and a disproportionate number do not graduate at all” (State Education Resource Center, 2017). This crucial data is currently available to the public as a result of close analysis of the mandated reporting of disaggregated student data.

In 2011, the Achievement Gap Task Force was established by the Connecticut legislature to address the achievement gap across our public school system. Prohibiting the ability to report disaggregated student data by race will eliminate the ability to continue to monitor progress or lack of, in the state’s ability to close the achievement gap. As a result, we will be making it possible to hide the racial disparities and deplorable outcomes that exist for children of color in our educational system. Furthermore, we will be facilitating negligent behavior to deal with issues of race and once and for all address the causes of the disparity that result in inequities in education.

I hope that you will seriously consider the negative impact this bill will have on our students of color and in doing so, will strongly oppose SB 359.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Madeline Negron, Ph.D.
CALAS President-Elect