March 7, 2018

Subject: Support CT SB00359, An Act Prohibiting The Disaggregation Of Student Data By Ethnic Subgroups In The Public School Information System.

Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Hongying Qian, a mother of three American born children, living in Fairfield CT for 16 years, and in US 22 years. I am writing to testify for the support of the CT SB00359 “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 strongly believe the entire population shall not be subject to registry of ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnicity origin.

I am supporting the original concept because I hope my children “live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”. The US is the only country for my three children. Asking them to checkout a box to identify their ancestor’s nation of origin or ethnicity on different kind of forms is acting against their Americanness and subtly suggesting they are a different kind of America. Like all other American children, my children eat similar food, watch and listen to similar TV and music, speak English of their only native language. There is no reason or doing anything good to ask them to identify their ancestor’s nation of origin or ethnicity on government policy level. They love this country dearly without second thought about their ancestor’s nation or ethnicity origin. Without such ethnicity origin checkboxes to check, I feel more comfortable that they can walk into the classrooms like any other American classmates without fear or feeling different. They and I would never imagine an ethnicity-based education would be a good education to them, or any of the American children. I strongly support helping the ones who struggle, cherish the ones who succeed. But this must be individual need based not national origin or ethnicity origin based because you belong to a specific subpopulation.

Therefore, I strongly urge you 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,

Hongying Qian

109 Brookside Drive
Fairfield, CT 06824