March 7, 2018

Testimony of Robbie Short
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New Haven, CT
06511

In opposition: R.S.B. 359
An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System.

My name is Robbie Short and I am from Roseville, California. I am a third-year undergraduate at Yale College. I stand in opposition to RBS 359.

As a student of education — and a public high school graduate myself — I know how important transparency is in ensuring the best functioning of public school districts. This act, which prohibits the disaggregation of student by ethnic subgroups, effectively robs educators, policymakers, parents, and students of their right to know crucial information that might prove useful to actions made toward a more equitable school system.

The Asian American/Pacific Islander community is a diverse one, containing people who identify with one or more East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asia, and Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups. This bill would limit schools and school districts to a general measure that doesn’t reflect any of the diversity contained in this group, rendering it less useful for addressing problems affecting particular ethnicities.

Connecticut has a duty to its students to keep this data disaggregated.