Testimony
In Support of Senate Bill 359
An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System
Education Committee
March 8, 2018

Senator Boucher, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, Representative Lavielle and distinguished members of the Education Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 359, An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System. The bill would prohibit the collection of disaggregated student data on specific ethnic subgroups unless such student data is required by federal law or collected uniformly across the entire population of students.

No student should ever feel singled out when they go to school and take a test or fill out paperwork. In nearby states students have been asked to identify specific ethnic information regarding their Asian heritage, and this is not being done for any other ethnic group. We must take steps to protect our students and make them feel comfortable in our public schools. As a state we should looking for ways in which to make our schools and communities more inclusive, this bill takes steps to do that.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and submit testimony in support of this legislation, which will ultimately protect our students from discrimination based on ethnicity.

Sincerely,

State Senator Heather Somers
18th District