March 7, 2018

RE: Bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System”

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee

My name is Jianjun Sun and I am an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut. I am writing to testify in regard to Bill No. SB359: Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic 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, we are 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 am supporting the original concept because it will unite our nation. Every Child of America is an American despite their ethnic and racial origin. Every ethnic groups and generations contributed, enriched, and reshapes a constantly evolving identity of being American. We don’t want to create an environment that labels kids by racial groups, judges students by stereotype or categorization because of their family origin, and allows discriminatory policy/practice based upon a child’s nation of origin.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Jianjun Sun

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