Honorable Members of the Connecticut Education Committee:

My name is Liya Tang. I am 9 years old and currently a fourth grader at Pine Grove School in the town of Avon. I was born and have lived in America (Connecticut to be specific) for my entire life. I am writing to testify in regard of bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the Dis-aggregation 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 sub-populations 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 believe that the entire population shall not be subject to registry of ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnicity origin.

I fully support the original concept because I think that registry based on ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnicity origin in the United States is moving backwards instead of forward. I believe that every American should be treated equally no matter what his/her race, national origin, or culture is. I believe that if you want to reach a goal, then you can work hard to reach it. Don’t worry about where your ancestors came from, and have confidence in yourself!

In Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York, our neighboring states, some type of Asian Registry bill has passed or has been raised. I am very proud that, here in Connecticut (the constitution state), we have an anti-registry bill which is consistent with the equality spirit of the constitution of this great country. There are enough examples in history when people with different religion/race/culture backgrounds were treated differently and discriminated by others. Why is this still happening in the United States?

United we stand; divided we fall. We should not have a registry based on national origin or ethnicity for ANY American kid. All should be treated equally and judged by the content of their character, not where their grandparents came from or what dialects they speak at home.

Please modify the bill language to say “No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry nation of origin and ethnicity origin”.

Please vote for bill SB359.

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