March 8, 2018

Dear Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Daisy Torres and I am a member of CALAS (Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents) and a school administrator at the district level in New London, CT. I am writing in strong opposition to Bill 359: An Act Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic Subgroups in the Public School Information System.

I am very concerned about the implications the passing of this bill would have on CT’s students of color. Prohibiting the disaggregation of student data by race will allow racial disparities and unacceptable educational outcomes for students of color to exist. The CT Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the Achievement Gap Task Force, and the State Education Resource Center (SERC) continue their efforts in closing the achievement gap for all students, particularly for students of color. Disaggregating data to understand disparities enables educators to make informed decisions about how to best support and meet the needs of all students. According to a recent article published by the CT Mirror this past July, recent SBAC results show about two-thirds of white students are reaching grade level proficiency in English compared to only one-third of black or Hispanic students. The passing of this bill will prevent educators in addressing our collective and moral responsibility to prioritize efforts to eliminate the inequities that currently exist across our public school system and ensure no student is left behind.

I strongly urge you to consider the serious impact the passing of this bill would have on CT’s students and oppose SB 359.

Sincerely,

Daisy Torres
CALAS member
New London Public School Administrator