Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Katie Voong and I am a middle schooler currently residing in Connecticut. I am writing to testify my support in regard of bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System”.

I support the original concept of “prohibiting education institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation data from students by subpopulations of national origin and 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 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 I believe that singling out every ethnic group and dividing up each group further is never the way to unite the country and stand together as one. We are the ‘United States’ not the ‘Divided States’! I would not want to be labeled as ‘Asian’ or ‘Chinese’, or go even further and say ‘Cantonese’, but instead I simply want to be known as a proud American. Furthermore, everyone giving such personal information can make us all vulnerable if the information is misused by the government and school facilities. For example, this information can be misused in college selection as discrimination. There is a possibility that some people will be stripped away of their opportunity regarding education because of their race. It would be saddening to see people being rejected to a school they’ve dreamed about going after working so hard and putting in so much effort, when the reason is simply because the acceptance ratio of their race is higher compared to other race groups. Everyone should get equal chances for school selection and we should be judged on whether we show effort and commitment instead of where our ancestors come from.

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 truly,

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