Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is LAXIANG WAN FROM NEW HAVEN. I have been a Connecticut resident since 2002. I am writing to testify in regard of bill No. SB359 “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System”.

First of all, I’d like to applaud you for raising a bill on “Prohibiting the Disaggregation of Student Data by Ethnic or Racial Subgroups in the Public School Information System (No. SB359)” and holding a public hearing to allow citizens to express their opinions.

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, I am very concerned with a specific language used in the bill, which states, “unless ... collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. I believe no one shall be subject to register the nation of origin of his or her ancestry. Moreover, signaling out student information based on country of origin and language/dialect within racial/ethnic categories, also known as data disaggregation, reinforces differences among people, creates division, and harbors unnecessary hostility among groups. Our dear country USA has been called a ‘melting pot’. Then laws of our government should reinforce unity other than division!

Once again, 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.”

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.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via my email at LA-XIANG.WAN@YALE.EDU. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

La-xiang Wan, Ph.D, M.D.
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