Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Xianguo Wang. 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”.

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 my children were born at US. They are American. No kids should be categorized by their ancestors’ origin, nor should any kids be categorized by what language their ancestors spoke. During culture revolution in China I was categorized by Chinese government as landlord because my grandfather was a once a landlord. My grandfather died when my father was 6 year old. But I was still categorized as a landlord 30 years after my grandfather died. And as the result any children with landlord category were banned from college entrance and government jobs. Fortunately China eradicated this discrimination policy in 1980s. Now I am astonished to here at US some state began to push categorized our US-born children based on their ancestors’ original and languages. This divisive policy will only divide our nation further apart and discriminate certain group of people based on their race and color which is totally against our Constitution. 54 years ago Dr. Martin Luther King Junior said “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Please let our kids know they are judged by their character, not by their skin and their ancestors’ origin and languages.

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 help our kids and help the future of the nation. Please vote for bill SB359.

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