Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Xiaowen Wang. I am writing to testify in regards to 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, I am very concerned regarding this portion of the current bill “unless … collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. I believe no population group in the school system shall be subject to registry of ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnicity origin. We all hope for a color-blind society as Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned decades ago. What kind of message are we trying to pass on to the next generation if the school system guides the educational decisions not based on students’ performance and needs in the classroom, but rather on the national origin or ethnicity that they inherited? That would be the ultimate insult to the American dream, the core foundation that makes America the greatest nation of the world.

Please modify the bill language to “No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry nation of origin and ethnicity origin”. Please vote for bill No. SB359.

Sincerely,

Xiaowen Wang

71 Lynam Road,
Stamford, CT