Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Julia Xu, and I am attending middle school in the seventh grade. I am writing to testify regarding bill No. SB-359 “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 in regards to 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 a registry of ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnic origin.

I am supporting the original concept because I believe that there is no reason to separate Americans because of the immigration their parents, grandparents, or any ancestors did over the course of American history. The United States of America is a ‘melting pot’ of different cultures from around the world. We, America, pride ourselves on our interracial mix of people who should be united regardless of ethnic diversities. I, as an American, have frequently seen cases of discrimination which were and still are targeted to me or people I know. I am confident that others can say the same. Older American generations should be setting an example for our appreciation for a world full of unique and different cultures, and teaching the younger generations to embrace and accept these differences.

Instead of setting this example, collecting specific data is exhibiting something America has struggled with managing- the idea of everyone in America as an American, not an immigrant, not ‘different.’ If you are born in America, if you moved to America, you are an American. The movement of different cultures has played a tremendous part of our rich history. Centuries of immigration has helped shape the ever-changing idea of being American. We need to take responsibility for the future generations and show them that we are all united as one strong country- America.

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 SB-359.

Julia Xu,

7th Grade
Cheshire, Connecticut