Honorable Members of Education Committee:

This is Dr. Lin Yang, a board member of Asian American Equal Right, and legislative chair of CT Property Owner Association. I am testifying in support of bill No. SB359, on behalf of a grassroots movement: the hundreds of people who will take a day off from work or school, to show up during the public hearing on 3/8, to support this bill; many more who are closely watching this bill and the public hearing; and even more who had worked so hard to advocate against the Asian registry issue that deeply concerns our whole community.

Asian registry mandates Asian American children and Asian American children only to register at school with their ethnicity origin or ancestry’s immigrant country of origin. The proponents claimed this will disclose disparity among students and better direct government resource. Many states, including the three states surrounding CT had established Asian registry or are in the process of doing so.

However, we strongly disagree with this practice. We are in support of helping children who need help, but to determine who needs more or less help based on ethnicity origin is simply wrong. It victimized the children in the perceived “doing-well” group who struggle: that they may not get the help they need simply because of their ethnicity. It also victimized the children in the perceived “not-doing-well” group: that they are stereotyped as someone not as good by the exact people who said they will help them. Ethnicity based education is simply BAD education.

Furthermore, Asian registry labels American born kids and their kids as perpetual foreigners. Though we are proud to carry our heritage, at the government and policy level, every citizen shall be treated equally as American. Ethnicity profiling in name of data collection will always lead to discrimination even with the best intention.

Therefore, we support the original concept of bill SB359, which is “prohibiting educational institutions or other state agencies from mandatory collection and separation of data from students by subpopulations of national origin or ethnicity”. The reasons for our support:

1. **Unity of future generation. Every Child of America is an American.** America is a country of immigrants. Very generations of immigrants contributed, enriched and reshaped a constantly evolving identity of being American. But it is one identity nevertheless. We support SB359 that bans labelling kids as perpetual foreigners in name of “data collection”, or “social justice”, or “equality”.

2. **Protection of privacy of a child and family:** While we are all proud of our heritage and carry our heritage tradition/language in various ways in private life, ethnicity origin and family immigration origin can be complex and is definitely a private matter.

3. **Prevent discriminatory policy/practice based upon a child’s nation of origin or ethnicity origin:** Throughout history, people had suffered in various ways due to registry of Ancestry nation of origin and ethnic origin. We don’t ever want policy/practice based
on ethnicity or immigration origin which most of the time meant well, but always lead to
discrimination and cause harm.

4. **Protect our children from the stigmatization of being “another kind of American”:** We
don’t want to create an environment that judge students by stereotype or
categorization because where their family came from or their 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”. **If it is wrong and harmful and
against American values to do Asian Registry, to register every student based on ethnicity
origin or ancestry immigrant nation of origin, does not make it right.**

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

We also want to thank the legislators who proposed and supported our effort to advocate
against Asian registry, or registry of any kind based on ethnicity origin. We thank the
committee to raise this bill and give us this opportunity of being heard. Please vote for Bill
SB359 with language modification.

Sincerely,

Lin Yang, Ph.D

Board Member of Asian American Equal Right

Legislative Chair of CT Property Owner Association

17 Woodside Drive,

Woodbridge,

CT 06525.

Ly2175@yahoo.com