Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Xiaoling. 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”, because I firmly believe that it not only protects people’s privacy but embodies the most important spirit of our country which is treating everyone equally with dignity no matter what our circumstances are.

The history of we Asian people coming to US and joining the whole big family is dated back to 19 century. We studied hard, worked hard as people from other races do, and never stopped trying. We have contributed to building the modern and world-leading Unites States. We deserve to be treated equally in this country especially which is labeled as the land of free and the home of the brave.

However, all of a sudden, we Asian people became the model minority, the “privileged”, the “overly successful” ones and some people even want to further divide Asian Americans by our ancestry nation of origin and the dialect we speak at home. I’m really offended because this only applies to Asian people. It seems like we’re punished by our excellence. Moreover, in history, tragedies happened to certain group of people after being labeled. It’s scared to me if I’m required to register my ancestry nation of origin. It’s even frightening for me to think what consequence this might be if this becomes mandatory to only Asian people.

My son was born and being raised here. He loves this country like other Americans do. How I’m going to explain to them why he is the only one to register ethnicity origin. I am 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. It’s an invasion of privacy and misuse of CT taxpayer dollars.

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.

Regards,

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