Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Roy You, a resident of Connecticut for more than 10 years and father of three kids born and raised in Connecticut. 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, I’m very concerned in regard of this portion of the current bill language “unless ... collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. I believe nobody, certainly not our kids, should be subject to registry of ancestral nation of origin or ethnicity.

I am supporting the prohibition of ethnicity registry because I believe any such registry is divisive to our society and harmful to our kids, especially kids from immigrant families. While I’m proud of my Chinese heritage and want my kids to know that, I don’t think it’s government’s role to register them based on their parents’ heritage no matter how good the purported intention of such registry is. Any official sanctioned registry will label most kids in our school with a foreign ancestry (except Native Americans), thus singling out them as perpetual foreigners and introducing the anxiety of alienation. In addition, I don’t see the value of such ethnicity labeling and registry in education (or any other matter). Instead of wasting our precious tax dollar on such registry and data mining based on ethnicity, let’s help our students who are truly in needs based their health or social economic circumstances.

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”. Then, please vote YES for bill SB359.

Sincerely,

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