Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Bernice and I am a resident of Hartford. I am writing on behalf of my family 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, we are 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.

I am supporting the original concept because Asian American is already very small group in terms of population. I feel that our privacy was violated with data that is going to be collected in such granular. On top of that, based on the census data, Asian enrollment is rising every year and it only suggests that the education problems facing Asian groups are not crucial as other Ethnicity to be addressed. We are worrying at the disaggregated data are aimed at further suppressing education opportunities of our hard working children, and worst, it potentially brings up the issue of the unity of our community, turning different Asian subgroups against each other. We are all American and United we stand. My kids were born here and they are very proud to be American, they believe they are Americans as the same as the other ethnicity. We all work and study hard to make our community better. Subgrouping us based on our ancestry only hurts us especially children emotionally and doesn’t benefit our community and our country at all. We need to protect children born and raised in this country from being labeled as perpetual foreigners.

So 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.

Best Regards,

The YU Family