Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Weili Yu, the Principal of the Southeast Connecticut Chinese School (SCCS). SCCS is a non-profit organization located in East Lyme, Connecticut. We have over three hundred registered students currently in our Sunday School program.

On behalf of SCCS, 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”.

SCCS strongly supports 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”. We are concerned with the language used for this portion of the current bill “unless … collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. We strongly believe the entire population shall not be subject to registry of ancestry immigration, nation of origin or ethnicity origin.

As educators for the local community, we strongly believe the importance of never creating labels for anybody based on their race, national origin or ethnicity. As a county of immigrants, if we keep labeling one or several subpopulations, how can we instill the value of equality in our children? How do we expect them to deal with the labels put on them and/or their friends? Any categorization by race, ethnicity or national origin, despite the intentions, will inevitably lead to conflicts amongst different groups, separation of people, and discrimination. All of these negative consequences could manifest themselves from within the walls of elementary school classrooms!

We strongly urge that any mandatory collection and separation of such data from all students be strictly prohibited. This privacy of all families, immigrants of all generations should be protected by law.

Yours truly,

Weili Yu