Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Weili Yu, an American citizen, a resident of Connecticut for sixteen years, and a Mom of a 7-old daughter. I am also a professional engaged in medical and pharmaceutical research. 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 strongly 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”. I am very concerned with the language used for this portion of the current bill “unless … collected uniformly across the entire population of students”. I strongly believe the entire population shall not be subject to registry of ancestry immigration, nation of origin or ethnicity origin.

My 7-year old attends the public school in Stonington, Connecticut. She loves going to school and cherishes the friendship she has there every day. Born and raised in America, remembering word for word the Pledge of Allegiance since age three, America is the only country she ever calls home. Even though the only Asian kid in her class, she has never for a second doubted that she is any different from her classmates.

The idea of subjecting any population to registry of national origin or ethnicity would mean my daughter and her friends will be forced to be labeled differently from one another. They would be referred to by the society as hyphenated Americans, i.e. Chinese-American, Germany-American etc. Even worse, they would eventually grow up labeling themselves as hyphenated Americans. I cannot imagine how could a generation (or even generations) growing up as hyphenated Americans possibly be in a position to build a coherent society and stay united! This seemingly harmless idea could lead to consequences that are dire to our children, our society and our country.

It is a no brainer to prohibit any mandatory collection and separation of such data from students from any ethnic group. Categorization of people based on race, national origin or ethnicity, even with the best intentions, can lead to destructive consequences that are unforeseeable.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to a favorable decision. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Weili Yu