Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Zehua Xia, a resident of Orange, CT. 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 am concerned about the clause that “...collected uniformly across the entire population of students.” The concept of “entire population of students” is completely different from “every national origin or ethnicity.” It leaves leeway for people to intentionally select and manipulate subgroups to represent “entire population”. I believe that nobody should be forced to report their ethnicity and compulsory registration of ancestry is against civil rights and constitution.

The advocates of Asian data disaggregation claimed that data disaggregation can reveal the disparity of socioeconomic status among different Asian origins and ethnicities, and such information could be used to improve public policy. Actually, the US Census has annual surveys for the entire US population and all ethnicities. The aggregated data is available online and has already been used during public policy making by various government offices. Systematically collecting such data at state level is reinventing the wheel. It is costly and it is a waste of public resources. For groups and people who want to participate government programs, they can voluntarily report their own personal information such as ethnicities or countries of origin. But citizens who don’t participate shall not be forced to report their ethnicities, sacrifice their privacy and civil rights.

The Asian data disaggregation ignores rights of privacy that is protected by constitution. Evidence from history has shown that once racial data is available to the public, it will open the door for racial profiling and discrimination.

Please modify the bill language 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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