Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Charlotte Zhang. I live in Westport, Connecticut and am a freshman at Staples High School.

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 I believe the following:

Many immigrants, including both my parents, say that their main reason for coming to this country is to live out the American Dream. A dream that they define as a life where everyone has equal opportunity and protection. By requiring on Asians to fill out the registry is blatant discrimination, it is requiring something of one race and is not required of any other races. If Asians were to be required to give information of their ancestry, then all people should have to do it as well. If I am required to say that my ancestors come from China, then all my white classmates should be required to say that their ancestors are from Britain, or France, or Germany. It is not fair to any Asian–American students that this be required of them, and it is the outright opposite of the American Dream.

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.