Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Weilong Zhang, a PhD and MBA, and I am currently a Principle Research Scientist at a large international high-tech company. 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” as I strongly believe that America is a land of equal opportunity and equal protection, regardless of national origin. America is the country of immigrants no matter what your skin color is; American is the place that you work hard for your dream and it would come true no matter where you original came from. People come to this country for “American dream”, they should have only one identity name, American. Their kids shall not be subject to registry of ancestry immigration nation of origin or ethnicity origin. Not only will it hurt the US nation interest in the long term, to separate them by ethnic or racial subgroups, but also will be extremely harmful to this country.

I have three kids, two of them have already been at college or graduate while the youngest is going to high school this fall. Like other Chinese kids at school, they all have experienced a lot of criticism for being Chinese students even though they all were born and raised here. They really don’t like being classified specifically on their ethnicity. All they want is to get the same support, not being discriminated due to their racial subgroups at schools. Clearly it is sugarcoated as "All students count" to allow the disaggregation of student data by ethnic or racial subgroups in the public school information system. Not only will it destroy the justice and equality in our education system by doing so, but also it releases a dangerous signal of allowing racial discrimination in this country. Throughout history, people had suffered in various ways due to registry of Ancestry nation of origin and ethnic origin. We don't ever want policy based on ethnicity or immigration origin, leading to discrimination.

Because of above reasons, I am 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.

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.

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