Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Jing Zhou, Ph.D., a Cheshire resident and a registered Patent Agent in US. 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, 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 spirit of United States of American (USA) represents an integration of different cultures from immigrants. Every generation of immigrants contributed, enriched and reshaped a constantly evolving identity of being American. This is the reason that everyone, especially every child, of USA is proud of being an American. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character”, we support legislation that bans labeling kids as perpetual foreigners in name of data collection.

Please modify the bill language as to “No population of students shall be subject to data collection of ancestry national of origin and ethnicity origin”. Please vote for bill SB359.

Sincerely,

Jing Zhou, Ph.D.