Dear Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Shengfan Zhou, Senior Statistician, from School of Medicine, Yale University. 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 in the initial Senator George Logan’s proposal (as attached photo). I believe any intention to register our children based on ancestor’s country of origin is unconstitutional. Ethnicity registry violates “the equal protection of the laws” of the 14th Amendment. It is also discriminatory to collect such information from our children. We all believe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream “All Americans should not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character”. Data collection on Ethnic or Racial Subgroups violates the privacy as well. As a Statistician in healthcare area, I don’t trust the security of such data collection, there is no way to guarantee our children would be fully protected. In addition, statistically speaking, there is totally no correlation between people in need and their ethnicity or race, these two are completely independent. Overall, such data collection of Ethnic or Racial Subgroups is a waste of our taxpayer’s money especially during such budget crisis.

However, 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. All of our children are Americans, and all of the American children should be united, no one should be divided anytime, anywhere in any situation.

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

Sincerely,

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