Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Xiao-Hong Zhou, a resident of Madison, Connecticut. 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 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 it is entirely nonsensical to use national origin or ethnicity as a way of grouping students. I am a retired scientist came to the US 27 years ago. My son was born in this country and I am very proud of him as a 5th grade social studies teacher in the South Bronx New York, serving a body of students who are disadvantaged. United States is a country of immigrants; we should be united not divided. Dr. MLK’s well said in his timeless speech, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” This is exactly what is needed if we are to put behind us a legacy of judgment based on race and/or ethnic group. To collect data and segregate students by their national origin and/or ethnicity is fundamentally wrong, un-American.

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.

Helen Zhou

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