Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Zhu, a resident of Wethersfield, CT. 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 as an immigrant nation, the common purpose of people to come to this great country is to be an American, to seek for better opportunities, enjoy equality, enjoy freedoms, enjoy all rights and exercise the responsibilities as an American citizen. That is so-called American dream. The history of nations is mostly characterized by ethnic and racial uniformity, not diversity. The United States has always cherished its “melting pot.” A melting pot is a metaphor for a society where many different types of people blend together as one. We should remember that diversity is an ornament, but unity is our strength. We should seek to preserve the ideals that made America successful.

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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