Honorable Members of Education Committee:

My name is Bin Zhu, a resident of West Hartford and a college professor. 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 the current version is discriminatory to a single group – Asians, who are required to identify subgroups. All people should be treated equally, no matter what ethical/racial group they belong to. Singling out one group is discriminatory.

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.

Sincerely,

Bin Zhu, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biology
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117