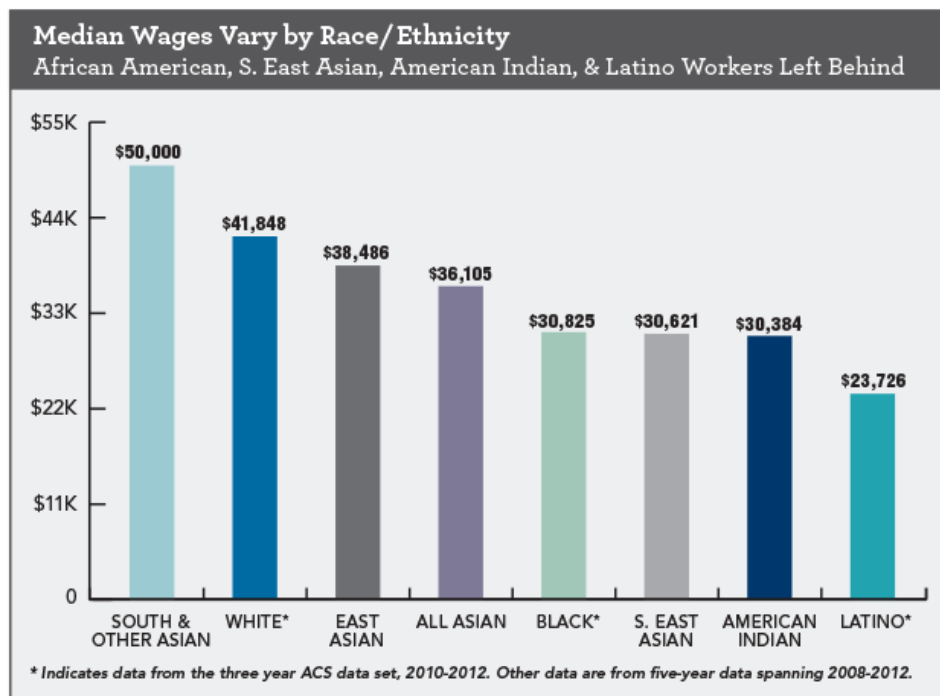


**Testimony in Support of H-5453
All Students Count Act
House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare
March 1, 2017**

Currently schools report racial and ethnic data about students in the following categories: Native American, Asian, Pacific, Black, White, Hispanic. The failure to report sub-categories within the “Asian” category can mask significant differences among sub-populations, as our “State of Working Rhode Island, 2015: Workers of Color Report” demonstrates. The report analyzes wages, income, education attainment, employment and other factors by racial and ethnic background.

Since most of the analysis in our report uses census categories, we purposefully included one analysis with a “deeper dive” into median wages for sub-categories of Asian/Pacific Islander. The result demonstrates why it is imperative to disaggregate data: The “All Asian” category shows median income of \$36,105. But the median income for South East Asians is only \$30,621 and the median income for South and other Asians is \$50,000. Just as the “All Asian” category masks these significant wage differences, collecting data about K-12 “Asian” students may mask potential significant differences in educational achievement among sub-populations. To ensure that all students succeed, schools should be required to gather and report on an agreed-upon set of sub groups within the “Asian” category and other categories as appropriate.



Source: Economic Progress Institute analysis of American Community Survey data from IPUM-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org