

Good afternoon Chairman Wise and members of the committee:

I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen/read my testimony. I apologize for my inability to deliver this to you in person.

My name is Leann Lewis and I am an English teacher at Simon Kenton High School for the students in Kenton County Public Schools. I love my school, my district, our community but most importantly our students. There is no greater profession than teaching our kids and I consider myself blessed every day that I chose the profession that shapes the future.

As a teacher at Simon Kenton High School, I'm currently serving on our SBDM Council as one of the teacher representatives. I chose to run for our council to help our students. As a teacher elected representative, I get the opportunity to help our students by making decisions that impact how money is spent, staffing decisions to improve student success and extracurricular activities that engage all students in school and community.

As a teacher, my biggest priority is my students. As a veteran teacher and sponsor of many activities, I know a lot about my students and the community. I know students working to bring up their math score on the KYOTE test to be eligible for the Young Scholars Program at NKU. I know of many juniors who are working to improve essays for their Governor Scholar Applications. I know my students and their families are taking advantage of many programs and opportunities to be successful as they navigate high school and beyond.

SB 1 will undermine our ability to continue to serve our kids. We, as teachers, often hear the members of the Kentucky General Assembly talk about the importance of local control. There's no better example of effective local governance than our elected SBDM councils. We take this work seriously, listening and engaging with stakeholders to make informed decisions and sound policies. We engage parents and educators and come together to make decisions that serve our students that we all know personally. We know what our kids need to succeed in our school and work together to provide for them and make decisions that help facilitate that.

This proposal has been characterized as a teacher versus administrator issue and that we need to give the Superintendent and School Board more control because they are the CEO and Board of Directors. Our site based council works within the law and with district policies. Our school district has 18 schools, how can one person be responsible for making curriculum decisions for so many schools? The voice of the local SBDM should continue to be heard to improve student achievement because the SBDM council knows, monitors, questions and shapes school policy for students.

Please oppose this bill and do not undermine local elected representatives' ability to make the best decisions for our kids.

Thank you for your time.