

From: [Michelle Crocker](#)
To: [Board of Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Chet Janik](#); [Alison Middleton](#)
Subject: FW: Reinstate the budget for Early Childhood Services
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:31:59 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Please see Public Comment below.

Michelle

From: Daniel Toole <drtoole@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>
Cc: Ty Wessell <twessell@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Reinstate the budget for Early Childhood Services

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Along with other residents of the County, I was shocked by your vote last week to defund the voter-approved millage for early childhood services. I herewith request that you urgently reinstate the planned funding for these essential services and I would like this request to be included in the public record.

Approval of the millage was achieved by democratic vote in our county, indicating voters' consent and support for these vital services. The Board of Commissioners should not unilaterally remove support for these services against the wishes of the voters of Leelanau County. The previously budgeted funding to the Health Department is essential for the provision of early childhood services, for all residents who have young children and wish to avail of this key support.

Prior to moving full-time to Leelanau, I worked more that 30 years in international development, specializing in child health, protection, and development, covering over 100 countries on four continents. In all countries where I have worked, governments have come to understand the vital importance of early child development to ensure 'the best start in life' for every child - for their mental and physical health as well as for improved school-readiness and longer-term educational outcomes.

It is thus unimaginable in my experience that Leelanau county would squander the opportunity to continue to make one of the best investments possible for its future: ensuring that every child in the county has access to early childhood development support.

Leelanau County is known for its beauty, and its quality food and living. We must ensure that we also set an example to support all children in the county. The future of the county lies in its children; strong, continued investments from the County are essential to ensure that we support every child and build that future.

Daniel Toole
Leelanau Township Resident
20 September 2021