

From: [David Hendricks](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Requesting your support for democracy and early childhood services in Leelanau County
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 11:08:13 AM

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From: **David Hendricks** <drhendricks@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 11:02 AM
Subject: Requesting your support for democracy and early childhood services in Leelanau County
To: <rrobins@leelanau.gov>

Dear Mr. Robbins;

I am a physician with board certification in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. With my wife and partner, who has an advanced degree in counseling we have a clinic near Empire that provides treatment services for people with substance use and mental health problems. Our ability to be of real help to people struggling with these issues depends in part on a solid understanding of the causes of substance abuse and mental illness. Unlike the confusion prior to the twenty-first century we now know for certain that lack of proper support during early childhood negatively impacts the normal trajectory of early brain development that later in adult life markedly increases the likelihood of substance abuse and mental health problems.

When the citizens of the county voted to support families and children in our local community as a result of thoughtful work by the previous county commission I was very happy to think that our children had a better chance of growing up to be sound and happy adults free of the suffering associated with addiction and mental illness. I felt this good work was an intelligent and overdue investment in the future wellbeing of our community. Since the problems this aid would help to alleviate makes no distinctions between social classes but would be available to all families in the county I felt the funding was particularly intelligent and well designed.

But now we have the ugly spectacle of a few persons on the current commission who enjoy neither the kindness nor the wit to understand the importance of this program who now in addition to these impairments seek to not only undo this program but in addition attempt to do so by the unauthorized and unethical reversal of the democratic process that created the program. Having the power by underhanded means to undo the will of the people is not the same as having the legal or ethical authorization to do so.

We are therefore taking the time today to ask you to help preserve not only these early childhood services that will help to ensure the future wellbeing of our people, but also to protect the foundations of our democracy.

Thank you.

David Hendricks MD

Sharon Hendricks ACSW