

From: [Jill Wellman](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Jill Wellman](#)
Subject: Letter to Commission for Special Committee of the Whole meeting
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 2:58:48 PM

To the Clerk,

Please forward my letter to all the commissioners and post on meeting website.

Thank you for all you do.

Jill Wellman
Centerville Township

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

I was listening to your executive board meeting last Tuesday and was shocked to hear that you voted to lower the millage supporting the Early Childhood program to .000. Raising children in today's world is challenging, especially during a pandemic. Providing support for families is the right thing to do.

I have concerns about Chairman Bunek's comments last Tuesday. I went back and listened to his remarks a number of times. He said that "when people make a wrong decision (at the polls) we're (BOC) to make sure that it doesn't go on. Commissioner Allgaier asked him to clarify what he meant by that statement. She asked if he meant that "if a public vote is taken and it's wrong, it is our duty to nullify it." He said yes, that is what he meant. Wow! Why do we even vote, then? I wonder how far Chairman Bunek would take that philosophy. It's quite a paternalistic view of government. We know what is best for you and you poor ignorant electorate can just sit back and let us tell you what is good for you. I can't imagine that thinking people on either side of the political spectrum would agree with that. Maybe if you were assured that your side would always be in power, but be careful what you wish for.

I am also concerned that Chairman Bunek, in his arguments against the Early Childhood program continually referenced the Quebec Study. He claimed at the meeting that he had spent time reading the studies. If he had read them carefully, he would realize that the Quebec Study was looking at universal access to preschool which was instituted in Quebec in the early 1990's. Leelanau County is not offering universal access to preschool in their program. Far from it. It is providing support and information to parents of young children and working with families to make them stronger. Chairman Bunek does a disservice to all of us, when he provides us with irrelevant and inappropriate data.

I hope you will reconsider your decision and do what is right for the children of our county.

Yours truly,

Jill Wellman

Centerville Township