

From: [Kathy Brandenburg](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Monday meeting
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 1:17:56 PM

Dear Commissioners

This letter is written in support of the Early Childhood Millage.

The first and foremost issue is that this millage was voted on and passed and therefore must be honored. Any argument to the contrary is not supported by law or common decency. Some commissioners have stated that their constituents are not in support of this. That is irrelevant information. Of course with any issue there will not be universal support. This is why we vote. There is no precedent for not honoring a vote if the turnout is low.

I could stop at the above, because my opinion should not have an effect on what decision you make. However, since it was mentioned several times that we have an older population that does not want to spend money on services that don't directly effect them, I feel I should offer my perspective.

I am an older retiree and I wholeheartedly support all we can do to assist our young families to be successful. My future, OUR future success is dependent on a well educated and well nourished youth. We speak often of the need to retain young people for our local work force. We have reached out to young families and asked what they need to stay, and the programs the health department have and will implement are precisely what they have asked for. There is already waiting lists for these programs which is a testament to their future success.

Lastly, I hesitate to comment on whether the negative actions regarding this millage are some how related to earlier negative comments and actions that have been made regarding the local health department. It's unbelievable to me that there seems to be an intent to demonize and politicize any Public Health entity. Historically Public Health has stayed well above the political fray. Our local department has been very careful to maintain that tradition. It appears to most of us that they only act with the greater good of the community in mind. From my own observations as an active and elderly community member, as well as a short term contract employee, I feel the health department is deservedly well respected. In the last few weeks it seems that it is only certain members on the board of commissioners who seem to put political ideas ahead of the health and safety of the children of Leelanau County.

Please do the right thing and honor the will of the people and the guidance of the local experts who have been hired by our elected officials keep our community healthy and safe.

Thank you for your service

Kathy Brandenburg
Maple City