

**From:** [Linda Smith](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
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As Nelson Mandela said, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

Commissioners Bunek, Lautner, Rushton and Robbins have put a stain on the soul of Leelanau County. Leelanau County is better than this. Our children deserve more.

First, the four commissioners tried to nullify the mask mandate implemented by the Benzie Leelanau Health Department. A mandate put in place that allows children to have in person school while protecting them from contracting and spreading Covid. It seems these four commissioners think they know more about public health than our trained health department professionals.

Most recently Bunek, Lautner, Ruston and Robbins voted to take away funding for the voter passed Early Childhood Services program. Again, these four demonstrated their lack of care for the children of our county. This initiative was passed by a vote of 3343 to 3244. Bunek is on record stating the Board of Commissioners has the right to change the vote of the people if the Board thinks that vote was wrong. The votes of the 3343 Leelanau County residents who voted yes have been nullified. This is a very dangerous precedent.

Bunek, Lautner, Rushton, and Robbins have taken away Early Childhood Services from Leelanau County families and children who would benefit from such services, which in turn means the whole community benefits. They tried to take away the mask mandate protecting our children, which in turn benefits the whole community. Leelanau County is better than this. I urge these four commissioners to rethink their actions. Are you truly out to harm children and take away votes from the citizens of Leelanau County?

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