

From: [Michelle Crocker](#)
To: [Board of Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Chet Janik](#); [Alison Middleton](#)
Subject: FW: Early Childhood Programming
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:15:16 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please see email for public comment below.

Michelle

From: Margaret Burian <m.burian@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:27 AM
To: Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>; Chet Janik <cjanik@leelanau.gov>
Cc: Rick Robbins <rrobbins@leelanau.gov>; Debra Rushton <drushton@leelanau.gov>; Ty Wessell <twessell@leelanau.gov>; Patricia Soutas-Little <psoutaslittle@leelanau.gov>; Gwenne Allgaier <gallgaier@leelanau.gov>; Melinda Lautner <mlautner@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Early Childhood Programming

I would like this comment to be read and recorded as part of the public comment for BOC meeting Monday 9/20, BOC meeting Tuesday 9/21

To the Board of Commissioners in Leelanau County.

A community is only as strong as it's weakest members. That being said, I'm appalled the the BOC would even consider "zeroing out" the Voter approved millage that supports the Early Childhood Programing. Young families struggle in this county to find affordable housing, child care, and health care. The message that this board through its actions, has repeatedly sent to the residents of Leelanau County couldn't be more clear: "we truly don't care about all in the community we live in."

While we don't have children, I voted for and fully support the funds this millage generates. My family needed some assistance and had it not been for the programs that were in place at that time, we most certainly would have struggled even more. With that firsthand experience, I can tell you how important it is that we lift those among us up who may need a little additional assistance, regardless of their circumstances and ask that you reconsider your positions on defunding this millage. To defund a program that Voters approved and is basically is in its infancy (due to Covid) is beyond short sighted, its disingenuous and sets a dangerous precedent. IF you were truly concerned about the vibrancy, viability, and livability of this county for ALL its residents, your actions would reflect this.

Margaret Burian
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