

**From:** Martha Phillips <mpzath47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** Clerk <Clerk@leelanau.gov>  
**Subject:** Leelanau County Board of Commissioners letter

Dear Clerk Crocker:

Please forward this letter to all Commissioners. Thanks you—Martha Phillips

---

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Leelanau County Commission:

I was disturbed by the recent decision of your Board to slash the early childhood services millage to zero. This action will affect many area young families and withhold funding to the Health Department to continue the already established Parenting Communities Program. After a three month study, led by Commissioners Patricia Soutas-Little and Tony Ansoerge, your Board approved the recommendations to let Leelanau County voters decide whether to improve gaps in early childhood services. As you know, the issue was approved by voters in 2019 to continue supporting families of children from birth to age 5. It seems that all Commissioners, the Health Department early childhood educational services staff, and your constituents should have been consulted prior to any decision on this proposed millage levy.

The Quebec Study, referred to by Commissioner Bunek, focuses on the failure of a Canadian government run childcare program. The preventive and individualized approach by Parenting Communities is not a daycare program. It offers critical support and education, while building community and connecting young families with needed services. As a parent and retired educator, I have seen firsthand the importance of family support to the health and stability of our community. I am puzzled that a governmental body could override the voice of its constituents for a program that seems to benefit all taxpayers. Please reconsider this decision to slash the early childcare services millage levy.

Sincerely,

Martha Phillips  
PO Box 462/722 West Grove Street  
Sutton's Bay, MI 49682