

From: [Michelle Crocker](#)
To: [Board of Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Alison Middleton](#); [Chet Janik](#)
Subject: FW: Early Childhood Millage Support
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 2:07:16 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Please see email below for public comment.

Michelle

From: Nancy Duck <n.duck@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Will Bunek <wbunek@leelanau.gov>; 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>; Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>
Cc: Chet Janik <cjanik@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Early Childhood Millage Support

September 18, 2021

Dear Leelanau County Board of Commissioners: Bunek, Chairman; Lautner, Vice-Chairman; Robbins; Rushton; Wessells; Soutas-Little; and Allgaier –

I am a senior living in Leelanau County. I was so pleased when the county's voters passed the millage proposal for Early Childhood. Our county's residents recognized the importance of healthy development during the first years of life. They voted to support parents as they learn parenting and showed their care for very young children. Healthy families and healthy young children will reap benefits, both social and economic, for Leelanau County throughout the lifetime of those children. When properly funded this millage will underwrite the fine work done by our county's Health Department in their work with young families.

Not all young families have access to the support they need. While some services are already in-place, they serve only a small fraction of the approximately 1000 very young children in the county. This millage would help correct that shortfall.

For many years, Parenting Communities met the needs in Leelanau County. Indeed, when I first moved to the county, I learned about how Parenting Communities was a national model for work with very young children and their parents. I was so proud. Then I learned that the grant funding that had allowed the program to develop had dried up and it had become a struggle to continue to provide top quality support for families in Leelanau County. The opportunity to fix that problem is one reason I was so pleased when the millage passed.

I am very disappointed that a majority of the Commissioners, who are outspoken about their feelings about Right to Life, felt that they in good conscience could vote against supporting healthy life for every young child in our county. How can one say that they believe every child deserves to be born and not believe that every born child needs the love and support of his or her county's residents? I urge all those who voted to not fund the millage to change their vote on Tuesday and give the program a chance to prove to you that it is of great benefit to our residents – those it directly serves and those who live among

those it serves. When each child is supported, we all will benefit as that child grows into a healthy grade school age child, teenager, young adult and eventually a senior citizen.

Thank you for reading this letter. Please file it in the record for the Tuesday, September 21, 2021, meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Nancy Duck
Leland