

From: [Nathaniel Gooden](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: This statement is intended to be shared as public comment regarding the Early Childhood Millage
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:21:17 PM

Many in Leelanau County know me as Nate the Firefighter/EMT or as the owner of a small business serving our county Gooden Covered. Most though know me as Baby Clarabelle's dad.

After 100 days at DeVos Children's Hospital Maggie, Clarabelle and I were finally able to come home. We were unsure daily of how well Clarabelle was doing physically, emotionally and cognitively, as this was a uniquely new experience. Enter Early Childhood Development Program (which we and others voted a unanimous yes for millage increase). The care, knowledge and support from these incredible people made our journey through a mental nightmare bearable. We constantly worried "how Clarabelle measured up". Early Childhood Services comes into our home once a month to observe and interact with Clarabelle and it has become an important date for our family. Clarabelle's hour is a fun and educational time for her as well as a therapeutic and reassuring time for my wife and me.

Will, Melinda, Debra, and Rick, the last I checked, this is neither China nor Korea. And unless we've turned into an Orwellian society in the last year I am stunned that a purported Republican, and Catholic man can say with no shred of humility that "This is a constitutional republic. When the people make a wrong decision we are here to make sure that that doesn't go on. That's the idea of a republic". You've taken a broad stroke on the definition of republic and pinpointed it to whatever agenda you've got in mind. Clearly childhood development doesn't hold any meaning to you. Although, during your campaign you stated multiple time that your running platform was for new and younger families, for youth activities and to help grow our community. When did this change? Where did you loose your way? This is a ridiculous overreach as well as an abuse of your power.