

From: [Peg](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Early Childhood Services Millage
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 3:37:58 PM

Dear Michelle Crocker, Clerk. Please share this letter with all of the commissioners before tomorrow's 1:00 meeting. If there will be a record of all letters received please include this letter. Thank you for your service, Peg McCarty

Dear Leelanau County Board of Commissioners,

I am a year-round resident of Glen Arbor and voted in 2019 to support of the Early Childhood Services millage. I was delighted when the millage passed showing that the citizens of our county recognized the need for a stable source of revenue for services provided by Parenting Communities helping the program to come closer to its full potential. As one of the original coordinators of Parenting Communities many years ago and now a volunteer for the newly launched Mom Power program, I was dismayed to learn that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners made a motion at last week's BOC meeting to reduce the voter approved Early Childhood Services Millage to 0.0.

I am interested to see how legal counsel will advise the BOC in this matter. It seems that any attempt by a Board of Commissioners to overrule the results of a citizen vote undermines the democratic process and would be wrong.

Over and over again we hear of the "graying" of Leelanau County and the need to attract young families. The early childhood services paid for by the millage are based on sound research and data driven practices that have proven positive outcomes for the well being of children, families and therefore the community. They make our county a more supportive place for families. As parents learn how to have effective communication with their young children, learn the importance of reading to their children, and understand the various developmental stages of their children those children will enter

school with confidence, better prepared for learning. A small investment in children's early years will benefit the community in many ways.

Because the Early Childhood Services millage was decided by the voters the commissioners have the obligation to let it play out as outlined. Because commissioners represent all voters they have an obligation to approach this millage with an open mind informing themselves as much as possible about its goals and its successes or failures as it moves forward. It is way too early to evaluate this initiative, let alone to call it a failure in these beginning stages.

Thank you for reading this letter and for your service as a commissioner.

Sincerely,

Peg McCarty

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