

September 19, 2021

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

I object to any decision of the Leelanau County Board of Commissioner to defund Leelanau County's Early Childhood Development program on process and substantive grounds.

A basic element in America's democracy framework is the will of the people. The Early Childhood Development Program was authorized and funded through the process of a millage vote taken by the citizens of Leelanau County. It is not only illegal but un-American for the Commission to overturn the will of its citizens.

The Early Childhood Development Program was many years in development. Rigorous research in the benefits accruing to youth and to society demonstrated that families were stronger and cost-effective economic outcomes result from early childhood education.

The defunding of this family benefit program during a period of extreme stress resulting from COVID will also have a disproportionate impact on Leelanau County families. Particularly those who are in poverty.

Sincerely yours,

Peter C Wolcott

12271 North Island View Drive

Northport, MI 49670

Email: pcwwolcott@gmail.com