

From: [Heather Pineda](#)
To: [Clerk; boc@leelanua.gov](mailto:boc@leelanua.gov)
Subject: Early Childhood Mileage
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:07:36 AM

Dear members of the board,

I was very disturbed to hear that you are considering reducing the voter approved early childhood mileage to zero. I voted for the mileage and as a mother residing in Leelanau County have a direct stake in the programs this mileage supports. I am a lifelong resident of Leelanau County and I have watched many of the friends I grew up with leave the County because of the lack of jobs and services for families. This mileage is a step in the right direction to supporting Leelanau families and making our local economy sustainable.

As a social worker I worked for a few years with the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program. The top request I heard from young families was that they wanted more education, especially new parents during the prenatal period. When low income families are literally asking for guidance and support we should be empowering them to be the best parents they can be rather than reducing services. Home visiting services like Parenting Communities are the best way to meet families where they are at and actually reduce and prevent financial and health consequences down the line, numerous peer reviewed studies have shown this to be true.

Since no member on the board has young children, and therefore no interest in this funding, you have no right to overrule the voters who approved the mileage. I hope you will reconsider your position and return the will of the people to them.

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