

9.21.21

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the proposal from Chairman Bunek, to reduce the early childhood milage to 0.0000. Please make sure this is a part of the public record.

Please remember the millage vote was presented with due diligence by conducting a needs assessment, surveying existing services and reviewing best practice models. This information was presented to the public to support or oppose a millage. This type of research justifies ample information for voters to make a quality decision not a poor decision as indicated by Chairman Bunek.

COVID created delays, stress, and isolation in every forum especially our County Health Departments. During a pandemic, we should see the need to support our front-line folks and that means trusting delays in other areas to save lives. This was a delay rippled down to the Parenting Communities Program, however, seeing the increased numbers of individuals using these services after COVID should be another data point for whether this program is needed. There is no doubt in my mind, if you ask the families who have used these services whether they are vital or not the answer would be yes they are, especially after a pandemic.

This millage presented at a rate of 0.0000 would set a precedence that I would not want to see. Voters have rights that some of us have fought long to have and knowing a small group voted in from the same voters you represent could decide what a poor decision is based on one study or hearsay is going down a dangerous slope.

The reason to oppose this proposal go farther than Parenting Communities Program. With so many of our kids already behind due to the pandemic why would we make it worse on these voting families and the next generation to come.

A concerned citizen,

I vote and that counts- Kira Davis, Bingham Township, Leelanau County

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