

Dear Leelanau County Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for your service. Being an elected official can be an all-consuming and thankless job, and I appreciate the time and effort you dedicate to our community.

As a parent of two young children, ages one and four, and a career educator, I feel particularly well equipped to discuss the importance of high quality early childhood programming. It is true that not all early childhood programs are created equal. To the great benefit of our community, the programming that is funded by the early childhood millage is outstanding. Since June, an astounding 38 families have received 174 home visits and over 60 families have engaged in play groups. In the education world, home visits are the gold standard for connecting and engaging with families and children. The next program set to launch, Mom Power, is so popular that there is a *waiting list* of moms and families who hope to join the group. Many parents have felt a significant increase in stress levels and isolation throughout the pandemic and the Parenting Communities Program is able to help parents feel connected and engage in more positive ways with their children.

The Leelanau County that I grew up in and am raising my family in has always been a pro-family place to live and raise children. When the citizens of Leelanau County passed the Early Childhood millage they affirmed their support for a pro-family community by choosing to spend tax dollars on programs that would benefit young families with children. Please do not subvert the will of the voters. I ask that you set a millage rate that will continue to fully fund the early childhood programming in Leelanau County.

Thank you,
Leah Mosher