

**From:** [Jill Wellman](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Jill Wellman](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to the Commissioners  
**Date:** Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:44:58 PM

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Ms. Crocker,

Please forward my letter to all of the Commissioners and post it on the meeting website.

Thank you for all you do.

Jill Wellman

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

Before March of 2020, I knew very little about what a health department did or how they related to me. I don't think I ever used their services, or had any contact with them. Since that time I have come to understand how important the role of the public health community is in controlling a pandemic, and implementing policies and regulations for the welfare of their citizens. I have developed great respect for the dedication and tireless effort put in by these healthcare workers, at the national, state and local level. I'm sure all of them never dreamed that they would be dealing with a worldwide pandemic during their professional life, but they have risen to the occasion and done a fantastic job.

I note especially the exceptional efforts from the BLDBD to keep Leelanau safe and keep their residents informed. I subscribe to their newsletter and in a week will be using one of their clinics to get my Covid booster. I know also that they have set up testing sites and offer so much more to local residents. I'm sure that it is thanks to all their efforts, that Leelanau County has the highest vaccination rate in the state. I brag about this all the time with my friends and family who don't live here. I have heard our director, Lisa Peacock, give presentations and found her knowledgeable and responsive to all questions. I am deeply concerned that this issue has become so political. Public health is NOT an issue that should ever be politicized. I realize that this started at the national level, and I was so hoping it would not filter down to the local level.

Please don't undermine the authority and credibility of our Health Department. People are watching you and none of you have the medical training to make public health decisions. Remember people's lives are at stake and if you chose to withhold funds or challenge the decisions of medical professionals, you could be endangering the lives of the citizens you are sworn to protect. I would hate to have any of you with that on your conscience.

Yours truly,

Jill Wellman  
Centerville Township