

9.20.21

Dear Commissioners,

I write as a concerned citizen of Leelanau County and as an Early Childhood Educator about the proposal from Commissioner/Chairman Bunek to reduce the early childhood millage to .000.

The duty of the Commissioners to steward our community resources is clear. This important duty requires that commissioners study the issues in depth, accessing relevant data, performance metrics, public opinion, content expert experience and the immediate and long term consequences of the decisions they propose.

Some citizens remain opposed to the millage. However, the public voted the millage in using our democratic process.

Research on the effectiveness of high quality early childhood programs is robust. Providing families and children with these programs can improve communities in many positive ways.

A bi-partisan community needs assessment recommended the services the millage is intended to fund. A Pandemic delayed the start of millage services, however, a recent services report from the Health Dept demonstrates that parents are ready and eager to engage now that home visits and group gatherings are safe.

These facts demonstrate that the millage should be adequately funded. Commissioners- please heed the will of your constituents!

Yours,

Alejandra Castellanos

3705 N. Aus Me Da Keh Mi-Kun Unit A

623 285 9598