

From: [Barbara Kelly](#)
To: [Rick Robbins](#); [Debra Rushton](#); [Will Bunek](#); [Ty Wessell](#); [Patricia Soutas-Little](#); [Gwenne Allgaier](#); [Melinda Lautner](#)
Cc: [Laurel Evans](#); [Michelle Crocker](#); [Alison Middleton](#)
Subject: Special Meeting/Public Comment
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 10:10:32 AM

This is intended to be delivered to all county commissioners and entered into public comment for the 9/9/21 Special Session of the BOC.

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to make a public comment on your agenda for the meeting this evening: "Discussion/Potential Action on Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department Mask Order for Schools." I am concerned that your discussion or action would involve anything other than full support of this order and the pandemic transmission mitigation measures it puts in place. In reviewing the BLDHD school toolkit 2021-2022 I find it to be pro-life, pro-health, and based on the welfare of our county's children, staff, teachers, and administrators.

As you know, the main goal of these mitigation measures is to protect students, teachers and staff, *in order to maintain in-person learning for the school year*. As a former middle- and high school music teacher I applaud this goal and the measures taken by our health department and schools to meet it – for the sake of our children.

In my faith tradition we commemorate the Martyrs of Memphis today: nuns and priests who stayed in the city of Memphis during a yellow fever epidemic in 1878. All those with means fled. Those left behind were certain to become infected and die. Still, these courageous men and women, though having an opportunity to leave, stayed to nurse the sick, until most of them also died.

These nuns and priests were more than "inconvenienced" by their ministries to the sick. I believe that their witness today is to those who have the power to support all efforts to stop transmission of COVID-19 through mitigation behaviors designed to keep kids in schools and adults at work.

Please lend your full support to the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department.

Thank you,

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