

To: Leelanau County Board of Commissioners: Mr. Wessell, Mrs. Allgaier, Mrs. Soutas-Little, Mr. Robbins, Mrs. Rushton, Mrs. Lautner, Mr. Bunek and County Administrator Mr. Janik and County Clerk, Mrs. Crocker.

October 10, 2021, please include this letter in the official record for the 10/12/21 BOC meeting. Also, please post it on the County website.

I am writing to implore you to please fully fund the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department budget for the budget cycle you are considering. This Health Department and the Health Board should be commended for their excellent community response to the Covid pandemic and its effects on our community. They need full funding to continue this critical work.

Public Health is just what the name implies, health for the entire public regardless of age, sex, race, financial status, health status, religious or political affiliations. Keeping the public healthy by disease prevention is only one of the many functions of the Public Health Department.

In the case of the Covid virus, the Health Department has taken a very comprehensive approach in addressing scientifically proven steps to keep our community safe. This has been done by providing education regarding prevention strategies such as: masking, social distancing, covid testing, vaccine administration, and contact tracing for positive cases. The highly knowledgeable, professional staff of the Public Health Department, have been available to address the multitude of concerns the public has had and continue to have during this ongoing pandemic.

This last year plus, has been like none other in all of our lifetimes. We are all collectively living through a pandemic. The Health Department has had to be flexible and creative in delivering care during this time period and has had to adapt new strategies for care delivery as the virus continues to change with the pandemic stretching on into yet another year.

The goal of protecting the Public has been and continues to be the Health Department's number one priority.

Now would be a disastrous, ill-thought-out time to reduce the funding for this vital department. I implore you to put partisan and personal agendas aside, and continue to fully support and fully fund the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department. We need them now more than ever.

Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Janis Frazee RN, MSN, WHNP-BC

Centerville Township