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September 16, 2021

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Leelanau County Board of Commissioners  
c/o Chet Janik  
8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suite 101  
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Dear Commissioners,

After reading articles in the Leelanau Enterprise and the Traverse City Record Eagle covering the recent plan to decrease the voter approved Early Childhood millage to zero, to say I was shocked is an understatement.

I would hope that the commissioners who are supporting this move understand that when citizens choose not to vote on a legally conducted millage referendum they are letting their will be known as much as if they mark the ballot. To interpret a voter's abstention as not wanting a program is the same as saying if 100% of eligible voters do not turn out for an election it is up to you to decide how they would have voted.

Given recent events it is patently obvious that this is an amateurish ploy by certain members of the Commission to punish Health Department officials for not bowing to pressure being applied by those same commissioners for an unrelated matter. To do this to the detriment of early childhood education is unfathomable.



Mark Morton

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**SEP 21 2021**

**LEELANAU COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR**