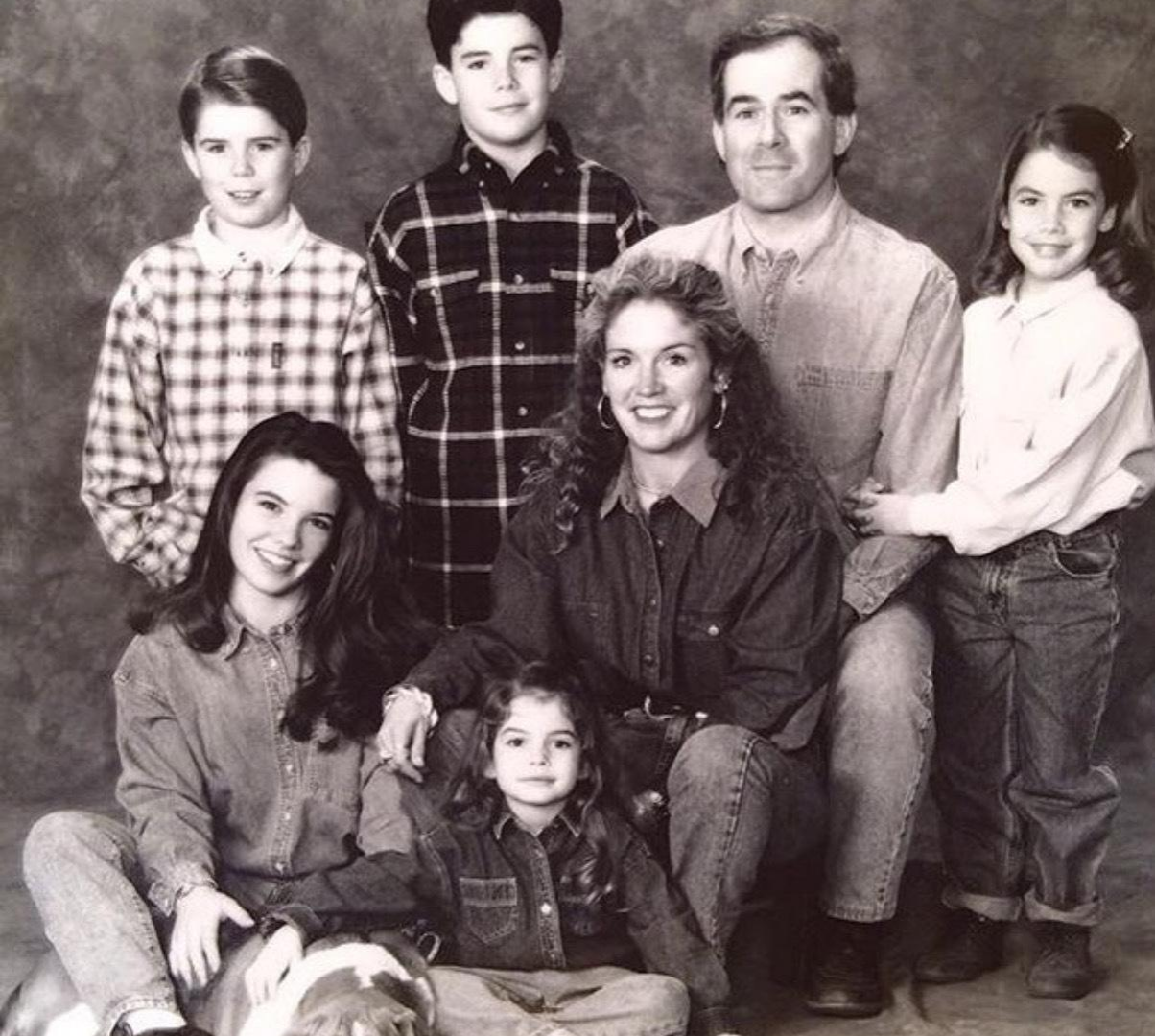


**MONTANA
LOVE SONG**

THANK YOU

A LUCKY KID





A LUCKY MAN

FOUNDRY





neighbor
schools

change.org

Google

↑↑ metropolis

Webflow getaround

PELOTON

SHVO

NLC NATIONAL
LEAGUE
OF CITIES
CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

lyft

wework

REEF

**MONTIVAL
FESTANA**



MONTANA'S EVENT OF THE YEAR

Montana Festival brings 1,000 of the top entrepreneurs, placemakers, creators, and policy leaders from Montana and across America together to dream, design, and build the future.

Across 3 days, 50 speakers, 3 big track workshops, 6 dinners, parties, and our experiences we connect, showcase, and accelerate Made in Montana ideas, projects, startups, and policy solutions that create good jobs, great towns, a model for America.



ARTS &
CULTURE

COMMUNITY &
URBAN DESIGN

STARTUPS &
INNOVATION

MISSION

✘ SET A POSITIVE VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

Connect Montana's leaders around a positive and solutions-based vision of our future while celebrating Montana's culture & values.

✘ CONNECT MONTANA EXCELLENCE

Celebrate and connect Montana's best and brightest in smart, fun, and informal dinners, workshops, parties, and outdoor experiences to accelerate relationships and social capital formation..

✘ ACCELERATE GOOD JOBS & SMART GROWTH

Invite top CEOs, Founders, Investors, Architects, and Community Builders from across the state and around the world to invest in Montana's cities and towns, and connect local Montanans with good local & remote jobs.





**WHERE WE
STAND**

ACCESS

50%

Two-thirds of children under six years old in America live in a home where their parents and all available adults work, and yet more than 50 percent of American families live in a “child care desert” and simply don’t have access to child care.

AFFORDABILITY

14%

In most states child care costs more than in-state college tuition. Experts say the cost of child care shouldn't exceed 7% percent of a family's total income, but today child care accounts for two times that for dual income households and five times that for single income families.

TALENT

25%

Providers earn about \$12 an hour, less than \$30,000 a year. We are talking about the people who care for America's children earning less than a fast food worker. It's no surprise that every year America loses 25% of child care providers who simply can't make ends meet.

**HOW WE
GOT HERE**

1776 to WW2



Fergus County MT



Hull House, founded by **Jane Addams** and **Ellen Gates Starr** in **Chicago** in **1889**

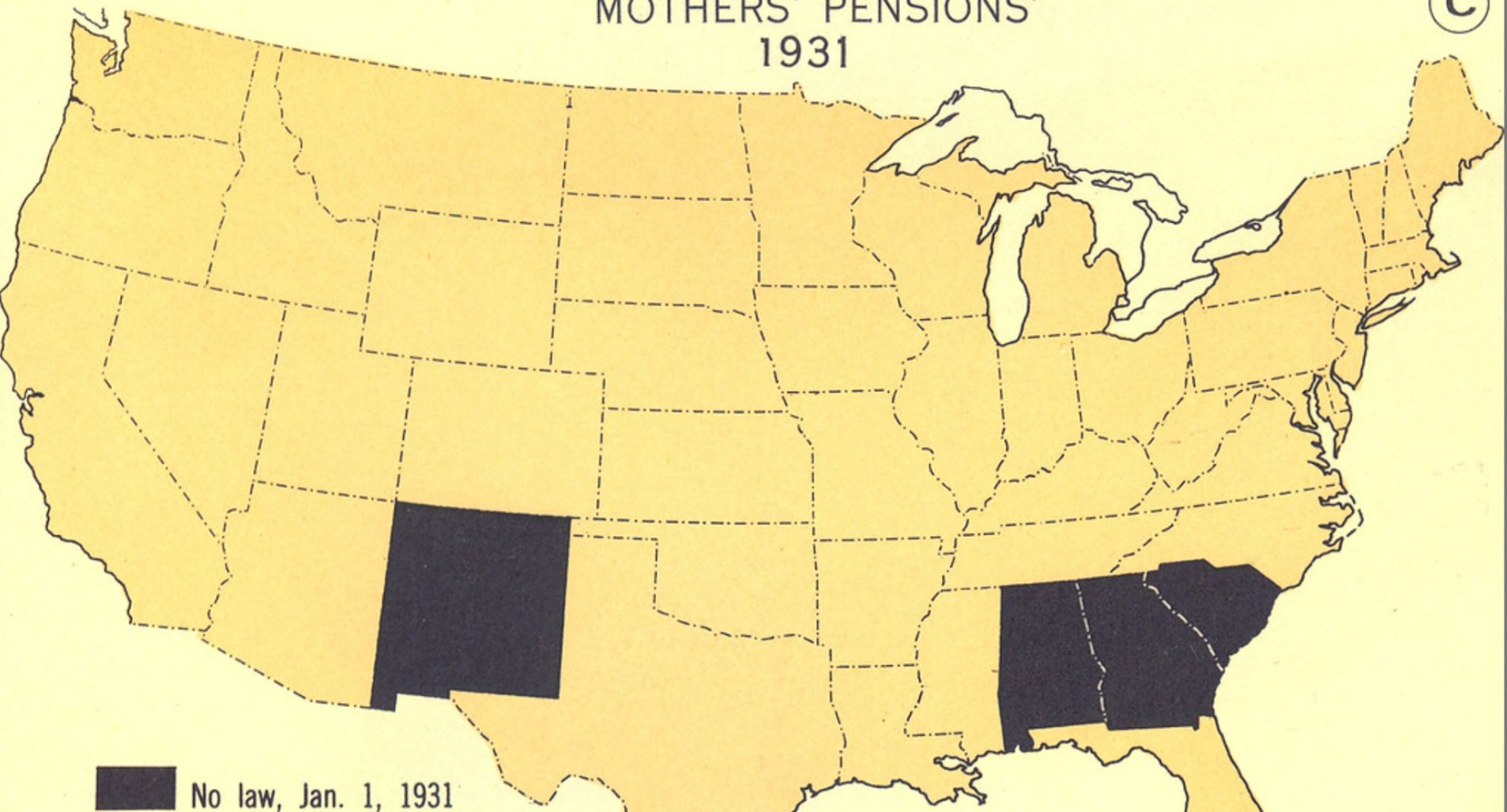







MOTHERS' PENSIONS 1931

©



 No law, Jan. 1, 1931

THE 1940 LANHAM ACT



\$10/day

The Lanham Act of 1940 launched more than 3,000 federally-subsidized child care centers, which became known as Lanham Centers costing parents the equivalent of about \$10 a day.



**And then the
war ended.**



of Women
WORK!
THEY
GO!

While we work
OUR CHILDREN
MUST BE SAFE
NO
OR-KEY KIDS

FOOD PRICES
RISE
MOTHERS
MUST
WORK

We're not
looking for relief.
Just a
children
safe
work

GOV. DEWEY
a permanent
CHILD
CARE
PROGRAM IS
THE
STATE'S
RESPONSIBILITY

A CHILD RELIQUENT
PROGRAM
IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR A
CHILD CARE PROGRAM

A CHILD RELIQUENT
PROGRAM
IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR A
CHILD CARE PROGRAM

NO NEGLECTED
CHILDREN
IN
NEW YORK

GOV. DEWEY
a permanent
CHILD
CARE
PROGRAM
IS THE
STATE'S
RESPONSIBILITY

Save the
CHILD CARE
PROGRAM for
working mothers

**THE 1971
COMPREHENSIVE
CHILD CARE ACT**

Every Child

Allocating about \$80 billion in today's dollars, The 1971 Comprehensive Child Development Act passed with bi-partisan support to establish a network of nationally-funded, locally-administered child care centers on a sliding fee scale to ensure access and affordability to bring child care to every American family.

**“Family-weakening
implications of the
system it envisions.”**

**WHERE
MONTANA
STANDS**

- **57%** of Montana families report they can't find or afford child care.
- **\$6,278:** The median household monthly income is about \$6,278 (Census ACS, 2023).
- **\$1,578:** The median monthly child care rate is about \$1,578 (DLI/Zero to Five, 2023).
- **25%:** That means child care costs equal roughly 25% of monthly household income.

- In 2022, Montana distributed **ARPA-funded stipends** to child care workers to boost retention and recruitment in the sector.
- In 2023, Montana implemented **Child Care Regulatory Reform** that raised licensing thresholds, loosened staff-to-child ratios, streamlined inspections, and invested \$90M in federal funds to expand provider capacity and scholarships.
- In 2023, Montana launched the **Early Childhood System Grants program** providing \$2M over two years to add infant/toddler slots, extend hours, expand crisis care, and improve special-needs services.
- In 2023, Montana passed **deregulation and subsidy laws** that eased requirements for home-based daycares and expanded Best Beginnings subsidies to more low- and moderate-income families.
- In June 2025, Gov. Greg Gianforte signed **House Bill 924** creating the GO Trust with a dedicated Early Childhood Account seeded with \$10M and ongoing trust fund interest to support child care businesses, workforce development, quality improvements, and affordable access for families.

**WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?**

**PARTNER WITH
HELENA & DC**

**EMBRACE
ABUNDANCE**

Abundance

#1
New York
Times
Bestseller



Ezra Klein
Derek Thompson

MONTANA FESTIVAL



**“To have the future
that we want, America
needs to build more of
what we need”**

- Derek Thompson

**GOVERNMENT
NEEDS TO MAKE IT
EASIER**



EARLY ALPINE
ACADEMY



**BUILD MORE
HOME DAYCARES**

- **200%:** Caregivers earn 200% more
- **40%:** Parents can save 20% to 40% per year.
- **100k** caregivers tried to open daycares on their own but 90 percent failed because of business and regulatory barriers.
- **Every city with detached garages are enabling ADU zoning. Allow for fast applications of ADU Home Daycares.**



**PUBLIC
PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Land:** Wherever we have gov owned land or buildings, there's an opportunity for a child care facility space. An assessment of these spaces could be developed for each community.
- **Schools:** Everywhere we have a school we have real estate. At least one room could be dedicated to child care, or schools may have auxiliary spaces available. Work together to see if leasing space is an option.
- **Offices:** Every office building could have an on-site or near-site child care. Mayors and city councilmembers should meet with CEOs, landlords and existing child care owners to create public-private partnerships together.
- **Community:** Form a group to work together on child care access and affordability. Are there zoning changes or licensing barriers your city councilmembers and mayor could work with you to address?

**LET'S GET
CREATIVE**

- **Get into groups:** We will break into groups at each table. The team will pass out one big board and a big sharpie and a bunch of loose paper.
- **Surface Problems:** Go around the table the table and each of you introduce yourself, your role, and one problem or opportunity you see re: **Access, Affordability, or Talent.**
- **Think Outside the Box:** Then together as a group I want you to discuss and workshop each problem or opportunity and finalize your best idea and write them on your board. **Problem Statement. Solutions. Next steps.** Then we will present our best idea to each other.

**MONTANA
LOVE SONG**