

# Costly Child Care

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# Basic Issue

- Child care is crazy expensive, a huge problem
- Cost rose faster than inflation for decades
- New parents often have modest income
- Makes for economic and emotional duress
- Can't work if you can't pay the babysitter
- Daycares are closing due to costs
- Encourages postponing a family
- Forced pregnancies make matters worse

# Extended Families

- Great way to raise a family
- Some cultures have grandparents do child care while parents work
- This mindset helps the child care crisis
- Multi-generational homes are uncommon
- Independent mobile workforce separates extended families

# My Family's Approach

- Kids need your time and love, that is their wealth
- I had a good job in science and computing
- Chose a very frugal lifestyle
- Rejected mainstream consumerism for family
- Closed my business for more family time
- Wife stayed home while kids were young
- Few families can afford that

# Contributing Social Problems

- Income inequality and low pay
- Under-supported education
- Unaffordable housing
- War on drugs divides citizens, promotes crime
- War on crime creates single parent families, trauma, poverty
- Inflation shrinks wages and assets
- Car-centric cities increase transportation costs

# Underlying Problem

- Modern culture promotes wealth inequality in many ways
- People in control really like this situation
- Government works for rich campaign contributors
- Culture has many practices that support wealth concentration and result in costly childcare

# Solution Part 1

- Encourage connecting extended families
- Reform government and culture for many reasons including reduced childcare costs
- Address affordable housing through zoning
- Reduce transportation costs via walkability
- Addicts belong in treatment, not prison

# Solution Part 2 – Subsidize

- Government should subsidize child care cost
- How expensive to reduce child care cost by 1/3?
- Cost per child is \$715. See "the latest TOOTRiS survey data, the average cost of Child Care in Sioux Falls is \$178.61 per week or \$715 per month."  
<https://tootris.com/edu/blog/parents/cost-of-child-care-in-south-dakota-a-breakdown-for-2023/>
- About 12,000 kids. See "According to a June 2023 report from Sioux Falls Thrive and the Sioux Falls Childcare Collaborative the city had 12,260 licensed slots for childcare" from "Four Sioux Falls childcare centers shutting down early next year" on Argus Leader.com
- \$34 million annually to cut costs by 1/3

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \$715 & 1 & 12 \text{ months} & 12,000 \text{ children} & 1 & 1 \text{ thousand} \\
 \text{-----} & * & \text{-----} & * & \text{-----} & * & \text{-----} \\
 \text{month} & 3 & \text{year} & & 1000 \text{ thousand} & & 1000 \text{ million} \\
 \text{child} & & & & & & 
 \end{array}$$



# Solution Part 2 – Updated

- Cost per child is \$1,200 monthly, not \$715
- \$58 million annually to cut costs by 1/3

$$\frac{\$1,200}{\text{month child}} * \frac{1}{3} * \frac{12 \text{ months}}{\text{year}} * \frac{12,000 \text{ children}}{\text{year}} * \frac{1}{1000 \text{ thousand}} * \frac{1 \text{ thousand}}{1000 \text{ million}}$$

$$1200 * 12 * 12000 / (3 * 1000 * 1000) = 58$$

# Solution Part 3

- Pay for child care subsidy with a sane drug policy
- Legalize recreational cannabis
- Reduce crime, addiction, disease, cycle of incarceration, poverty, homelessness, ...

# Solution Part 4

- Politicians and news media moguls with integrity
- Practical, caring, honest government
- Election reform to reduce campaign costs
- Media reform to create impartial local independent news media

# Solution – The Critical Part

- Citizens need to:
- Understand the issues
- Get politically active
- Change will occur when many informed people

**VOTE**

- Vote April 9 for city council



# Enjoy Nature

- Great Bear  
Park

